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(54) Title: NOVEL PLANT GENES AND USES THEREOF

(54) Titre: NOUVEAUX GENES DE VEGETAUX ET LEURS UTILISATIONS

(57) Abstract

Homologues of the Arabidopsis NIM1 gene, which is involved in the signal transduction cascade leading to systemic acquired resistance (SAR), are isolated from Nicotiana tabacum (tobacco), Lycopersicon esculentum (tomato), Brassica napus (oilseed rape), Arabidopsis thaliana, Beta vulgaris (sugarbeet), Helianthus annuus (sunflower), and Solanum tuberosum (potato). The invention further concerns transformation vectors and processes for expressing the NIM1 homologues in transgenic plants to increase SAR gene expression and enhance broad spectrum disease resistance.

(57) Abrégé

L'invention concerne des homologues du gène Arabidopsis NIM1, impliqué dans la cascade de transduction des signaux menant à la résistance systémique acquise (RSA), qui sont isolés à partir de Nicotiana tabacum (tabac), de Lycopersicon esculentum (tomate), de Brassica napus (colza oléagineux), d'Arabidopsis thaliana, de Beta vulgaris (betterave à sucre), d'Helianthus annuus (tournesol) et de Solanum tuberosum (pomme de terre). L'invention concerne également des vecteurs de transformation et des processus permettant d'exprimer les homologues de NIM1 dans des végétaux transgéniques afin d'accroître l'expression du gène RSA et d'élargir le large spectre de résistance aux maladies.

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Homologues of the Arabidopsis NIM1 gene, which is involved in the signal transduction cascade leading to systemic acquired resistance (SAR), are isolated from Nicotiana tabacum (tobacco), Lycopersicon esculentum (tomato), Brassica napus (oilseed rape), Arabidopsis thaliana, Beta vulgaris (sugarbeet), Helianthus annuus (sunflower), and Solanum tuberosum (potato). The invention further concerns transformation vectors and processes for expressing the NIM1 homologues in transgenic plants to increase SAR gene expression and enhance broad spectrum disease resistance.

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Description

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NOVEL PLANT GENES AND USES THEREOF

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The present invention relates to broad-spectrum disease resistance in plants, including the phenomenon of systemic acquired resistance (SAR). More particularly, the present invention relates to the identification, isolation and characterization of homologues of the *Arabidopsis NIM1* gene involved in the signal transduction cascade leading to systemic acquired resistance in plants.

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Plants are constantly challenged by a wide variety of pathogenic organisms including viruses, bacteria, fungi, and nematodes. Crop plants are particularly vulnerable because they are usually grown as genetically-uniform monocultures; when disease strikes, losses can be severe. However, most plants have their own innate mechanisms of defense against pathogenic organisms. Natural variation for resistance to plant pathogens has been identified by plant breeders and pathologists and bred into many crop plants. These natural disease resistance genes often provide high levels of resistance to or immunity against pathogens.

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Systemic acquired resistance (SAR) is one component of the complex system plants use to defend themselves from pathogens (Hunt and Ryals, 1996; Ryals *et al.*, 1996). *See also*, U.S. Patent No. 5,614,395. SAR is a particularly important aspect of plant-pathogen responses because it is a pathogen-inducible, systemic resistance against a broad spectrum of infectious agents, including viruses, bacteria, and fungi. When the SAR signal transduction pathway is blocked, plants become more susceptible to pathogens that normally cause disease, and they also become susceptible to some infectious agents that would not normally cause disease (Gaffney *et al.*, 1993; Delaney *et al.*, 1994; Delaney *et al.*, 1995; Delaney, 1997; Bi *et al.*, 1995; Mauch-Mani and Slusarenko, 1996). These observations indicate that the SAR signal transduction pathway is critical for maintaining plant health.

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Conceptually, the SAR response can be divided into two phases. In the initiation phase, a pathogen infection is recognized, and a signal is released that travels through the phloem to distant tissues. This systemic signal is perceived by target cells, which react by expression of both SAR genes and disease resistance. The maintenance phase of SAR refers to the period of time, from weeks up to the entire life of the plant, during which the plant is in a quasi steady state, and disease resistance is maintained (Ryals et al., 1996).

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Salicylic acid (SA) accumulation appears to be required for SAR signal transduction. Plants that cannot accumulate SA due to treatment with specific inhibitors, epigenetic repression of phenylalanine ammonia-lyase, or transgenic expression of salicylate hydroxylase, which specifically degrades SA, also cannot induce either SAR gene expression or disease resistance (Gaffney et al., 1993; Delaney et al., 1994; Mauch-Mani and Slusarenko, 1996; Maher et al., 1994; Pallas et al., 1996). Although it has been suggested that SA might serve as the systemic signal, this is currently controversial and, to date, all that is known for certain is that if SA cannot accumulate, then SAR signal transduction is blocked (Pallas et al., 1996; Shulaev et al., 1995; Vernooij et al., 1994).

Recently, *Arabidopsis* has emerged as a model system to study SAR (Uknes *et al.*, 1992; Uknes *et al.*, 1993; Cameron *et al.*, 1994; Mauch-Mani and Slusarenko, 1994; Dempsey and Klessig, 1995). It has been demonstrated that SAR can be activated in *Arabidopsis* by both pathogens and chemicals, such as SA, 2,6-dichloroisonicotinic acid (INA) and benzo(1,2,3)thiadiazole-7-carbothioic acid *S*-methyl ester (BTH) (Uknes *et al.*, 1992; Vernooij *et al.*, 1995; Lawton *et al.*, 1996). Following treatment with either INA or BTH or pathogen infection, at least three pathogenesis-related (PR) protein genes, namely, PR-1, PR-2, and PR-5 are coordinately induced concomitant with the onset of resistance (Uknes *et al.*, 1992, 1993). In tobacco, the best characterized species, treatment with a pathogen or an immunization compound induces the expression of at least nine sets of genes (Ward *et al.*, 1991). Transgenic disease-resistant plants have been created by transforming plants with various SAR genes (U.S. Patent No. 5,614,395).

A number of *Arabidopsis* mutants have been isolated that have modified SAR signal transduction (Delaney, 1997) The first of these mutants are the so-called *Isd* (Jesions simulating disease) mutants and *acd2* (accelerated cell death) (Dietrich *et al.*, 1994; Greenberg *et al.*, 1994). These mutants all have some degree of spontaneous necrotic lesion formation on their leaves, elevated levels of SA, mRNA accumulation for the SAR genes, and significantly enhanced disease resistance. At least seven different *Isd* mutants have been isolated and characterized (Dietrich *et al.*, 1994; Weymann *et al.*, 1995). Another interesting class of mutants are *cim* (constitutive immunity) mutants (Lawton *et al.*, 1993). *See also*, U.S. Patent No. 5,792,904 and International PCT Application WO 94/16077. Like *Isd* mutants and *acd2*, *cim* mutants have elevated SA and SAR gene expression and resistance, but in contrast to *Isd* or *acd2*, do not display detectable lesions on their leaves. *cpr1* (constitutive expresser of PR genes) may be a type of *cim* mutant;

however, because the presence of microscopic lesions on the leaves of *cpr1* has not been ruled out, *cpr1* might be a type of *lsd* mutant (Bowling *et al.*, 1994).

Mutants have also been isolated that are blocked in SAR signaling. ndr1 (non-racespecific disease resistance) is a mutant that allows growth of both Pseudomonas syringae containing various avirulence genes and also normally avirulent isolates of Peronospora parasitica (Century et al., 1995). Apparently this mutant is blocked early in SAR signaling. npr1 (nonexpresser of PR genes) is a mutant that cannot induce expression of the SAR signaling pathway following INA treatment (Cao et al., 1994). eds (enhanced disease susceptibility) mutants have been isolated based on their ability to support bacterial infection following inoculation of a low bacterial concentration (Glazebrook et al., 1996; Parker et al., 1996). Certain eds mutants are phenotypically very similar to npr1, and, recently, eds5 and eds53 have been shown to be allelic to npr1 (Glazebrook et al., 1996). nim1 (noninducible immunity) is a mutant that supports P. parasitica (i.e., causal agent of downy mildew disease) growth following INA treatment (Delaney et al., 1995; U.S. Patent No. 5,792,904). Although nim1 can accumulate SA following pathogen infection, it cannot induce SAR gene expression or disease resistance, suggesting that the mutation blocks the pathway downstream of SA. nim1 is also impaired in its ability to respond to INA or BTH, suggesting that the block exists downstream of the action of these chemicals (Delaney et al., 1995; Lawton et al., 1996).

Allelic *Arabidopsis* genes have been isolated and characterized, mutants of which are responsible for the *nim1* and *npr1* phenotypes, respectively (Ryals *et al.*, 1997; Cao *et al.*, 1997). The wild-type *NIM1* gene product is involved in the signal transduction cascade leading to both SAR and gene-for-gene disease resistance in *Arabidopsis* (Ryals *et al.*, 1997). Ryals *et al.*, 1997 also report the isolation of five additional alleles of *nim1* that show a range of phenotypes from weakly impaired in chemically induced PR-1 gene expression and fungal resistance to very strongly blocked. Transformation of the wild-type *NPR1* gene into *npr1* mutants not only complemented the mutations, restoring the responsiveness of SAR induction with respect to PR-gene expression and disease resistance, but also rendered the transgenic plants more resistant to infection by *P. syringae* in the absence of SAR induction (Cao *et al.*, 1997). WO 98/06748 describes the isolation of *NPR1* from *Arabidopsis* and a homologue from *Nicotiana glutinosa*. *See also*, WO 97/49822, WO 98/26082, and WO 98/29537.

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Despite much research and the use of sophisticated and intensive crop protection measures, including genetic transformation of plants, losses due to disease remain in the billions of dollars annually. Therefore, there is a continuing need to develop new crop protection measures based on the ever-increasing understanding of the genetic basis for disease resistance in plants. In particular, there is a need for the identification, isolation, and characterization of homologues of the *Arabidopsis NIM1* gene from additional species of plants.

In describing the present invention, the following terms will be employed, and are intended to be defined as indicated below.

Associated With / Operatively Linked: Refers to two DNA sequences that are related physically or functionally. For example, a promoter or regulatory DNA sequence is said to be "associated with" a DNA sequence that codes for an RNA or a protein if the two sequences are operatively linked, or situated such that the regulator DNA sequence will affect the expression level of the coding or structural DNA sequence.

Chimeric Gene: A recombinant DNA sequence in which a promoter or regulatory DNA sequence is operatively linked to, or associated with, a DNA sequence that codes for an mRNA or which is expressed as a protein, such that the regulator DNA sequence is able to regulate transcription or expression of the associated DNA sequence. The regulator DNA sequence of the chimeric gene is not normally operatively linked to the associated DNA sequence as found in nature.

Coding Sequence: a nucleic acid sequence that is transcribed into RNA such as mRNA, rRNA, tRNA, snRNA, sense RNA or antisense RNA. Preferably the RNA is then translated in an organism to produce a protein.

Complementary: refers to two nucleotide sequences that comprise antiparallel nucleotide sequences capable of pairing with one another upon formation of hydrogen bonds between the complementary base residues in the antiparallel nucleotide sequences.

Expression: refers to the transcription and/or translation of an endogenous gene or a transgene in plants. In the case of antisense constructs, for example, expression may refer to the transcription of the antisense DNA only.

Expression Cassette: A nucleic acid sequence capable of directing expression of a particular nucleotide sequence in an appropriate host cell, comprising a promoter operatively linked to the nucleotide sequence of interest which is operatively linked to termination signals. It also typically comprises sequences required for proper translation of

the nucleotide sequence. The expression cassette comprising the nucleotide sequence of interest may be chimeric, meaning that at least one of its components is heterologous with respect to at least one of its other components. The expression cassette may also be one which is naturally occurring but has been obtained in a recombinant form useful for heterologous expression. Typically, however, the expression cassette is heterologous with respect to the host, i.e., the particular nucleic acid sequence of the expression cassette does not occur naturally in the host cell and must have been introduced into the host cell or an ancestor of the host cell by a transformation event. The expression of the nucleotide sequence in the expression cassette may be under the control of a constitutive promoter or of an inducible promoter which initiates transcription only when the host cell is exposed to some particular external stimulus. In the case of a multicellular organism, such as a plant, the promoter can also be specific to a particular tissue, or organ, or stage of development.

Gene: A defined region that is located within a genome and that, besides the aforementioned coding nucleic acid sequence, comprises other, primarily regulatory, nucleic acid sequences responsible for the control of the expression, that is to say the transcription and translation, of the coding portion. A gene may also comprise other 5' and 3' untranslated sequences and termination sequences. Further elements that may be present are, for example, introns.

Heterologous DNA Sequence: The terms "heterologous DNA sequence", "exogenous DNA segment" or "heterologous nucleic acid," as used herein, each refer to a sequence that originates from a source foreign to the particular host cell or, if from the same source, is modified from its original form. Thus, a heterologous gene in a host cell includes a gene that is endogenous to the particular host cell but has been modified through, for example, the use of DNA shuffling. The terms also includes non-naturally occurring multiple copies of a naturally occurring DNA sequence. Thus, the terms refer to a DNA segment that is foreign or heterologous to the cell, or homologous to the cell but in a position within the host cell nucleic acid in which the element is not ordinarily found. Exogenous DNA segments are expressed to yield exogenous polypeptides.

Homologous DNA Sequence: A DNA sequence naturally associated with a host cell into which it is introduced.

Isocoding: A nucleic acid sequence is isocoding with a reference nucleic acid sequence when the nucleic acid sequence encodes a polypeptide having the same amino acid sequence as the polypeptide encoded by the reference nucleic acid sequence.

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Isolated: In the context of the present invention, an isolated nucleic acid molecule or an isolated enzyme is a nucleic acid molecule or enzyme that, by the hand of man, exists apart from its native environment and is therefore not a product of nature. An isolated nucleic acid molecule or enzyme may exist in a purified form or may exist in a non-native environment such as, for example, a recombinant host cell.

Minimal Promoter: promoter elements, particularly a TATA element, that are inactive or that have greatly reduced promoter activity in the absence of upstream activation. In the presence of a suitable transcription factor, the minimal promoter functions to permit transcription.

Native: refers to a gene that is present in the genome of an untransformed cell.

Naturally occurring: the term "naturally occurring" is used to describe an object that can be found in nature as distinct from being artificially produced by man. For example, a protein or nucleotide sequence present in an organism (including a virus), which can be isolated from a source in nature and which has not been intentionally modified by man in the laboratory, is naturally occurring.

NIM1: Gene described in Ryals *et al.*, 1997, which is involved in the SAR signal transduction cascade.

NIM1: Protein encoded by the NIM1 gene

Nucleic acid: the term "nucleic acid" refers to deoxyribonucleotides or ribonucleotides and polymers thereof in either single- or double-stranded form. Unless specifically limited, the term encompasses nucleic acids containing known analogues of natural nucleotides which have similar binding properties as the reference nucleic acid and are metabolized in a manner similar to naturally occurring nucleotides. Unless otherwise indicated, a particular nucleic acid sequence also implicitly encompasses conservatively modified variants thereof (e.g. degenerate codon substitutions) and complementary sequences and as well as the sequence explicitly indicated. Specifically, degenerate codon substitutions may be achieved by generating sequences in which the third position of one or more selected (or all) codons is substituted with mixed-base and/or deoxyinosine residues (Batzer et al., Nucleic Acid Res. 19: 5081 (1991); Ohtsuka et al., J. Biol. Chem. 260: 2605-2608 (1985); Rossolini et al., Mol. Cell. Probes 8: 91-98 (1994)). The terms "nucleic acid" or "nucleic acid sequence" may also be used interchangeably with gene, cDNA, and mRNA encoded by a gene. In the context of the present invention, the nucleic acid molecule is preferably a segment of DNA. Nucleotides are indicated by their bases by the following standard abbreviations: adenine (A), cytosine (C), thymine (T), and guanine (G).

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ORF: Open Reading Frame.

Plant: Any whole plant.

Plant Cell: Structural and physiological unit of a plant, comprising a protoplast and a cell wall. The plant cell may be in form of an isolated single cell or a cultured cell, or as a part of higher organized unit such as, for example, a plant tissue, a plant organ, or a whole plant.

Plant Cell Culture: Cultures of plant units such as, for example, protoplasts, cell culture cells, cells in plant tissues, pollen, pollen tubes, ovules, embryo sacs, zygotes and embryos at various stages of development.

Plant Material: Refers to leaves, stems, roots, flowers or flower parts, fruits, pollen, egg cells, zygotes, seeds, cuttings, cell or tissue cultures, or any other part or product of a plant.

Plant Organ: A distinct and visibly structured and differentiated part of a plant such as a root, stem, leaf, flower bud, or embryo.

Plant tissue: A group of plant cells organized into a structural and functional unit. Any tissue of a plant *in planta* or in culture is included. This term includes, but is not limited to, whole plants, plant organs, plant seeds, tissue culture and any groups of plant cells organized into structural and/or functional units. The use of this term in conjunction with, or in the absence of, any specific type of plant tissue as listed above or otherwise embraced by this definition is not intended to be exclusive of any other type of plant tissue.

Promoter: An untranslated DNA sequence upstream of the coding region that contains the binding site for RNA polymerase II and initiates transcription of the DNA. The promoter region may also include other elements that act as regulators of gene expression.

Protoplast: An isolated plant cell without a cell wall or with only parts of the cell wall.

Purified: the term "purified," when applied to a nucleic acid or protein, denotes that the nucleic acid or protein is essentially free of other cellular components with which it is associated in the natural state. It is preferably in a homogeneous state although it can be in either a dry or aqueous solution. Purity and homogeneity are typically determined using analytical chemistry techniques such as polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis or high performance liquid chromatography. A protein which is the predominant species present in a preparation is substantially purified. The term "purified" denotes that a nucleic acid or protein gives rise to essentially one band in an electrophoretic gel. Particularly, it means that the nucleic acid or protein is at least about 50% pure, more preferably at least about 85% pure, and most preferably at least about 99% pure.

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Recombinant DNA molecule: a combination of DNA molecules that are joined together using recombinant DNA technology

Regulatory Elements: Sequences involved in controlling the expression of a nucleotide sequence. Regulatory elements comprise a promoter operably linked to the nucleotide sequence of interest and termination signals. They also typically encompass sequences required for proper translation of the nucleotide sequence.

Selectable marker gene: a gene whose expression in a plant cell gives the cell a selective advantage. The selective advantage possessed by the cells transformed with the selectable marker gene may be due to their ability to grow in the presence of a negative selective agent, such as an antibiotic or a herbicide, compared to the growth of non-transformed cells. The selective advantage possessed by the transformed cells, compared to non-transformed cells, may also be due to their enhanced or novel capacity to utilize an added compound as a nutrient, growth factor or energy source. Selectable marker gene also refers to a gene or a combination of genes whose expression in a plant cell gives the cell both, a negative and a positive selective advantage.

Significant Increase: an increase in enzymatic activity that is larger than the margin of error inherent in the measurement technique, preferably an increase by about 2-fold or greater of the activity of the wild-type enzyme in the presence of the inhibitor, more preferably an increase by about 5-fold or greater, and most preferably an increase by about 10-fold or greater.

The terms "identical" or percent "identity" in the context of two or more nucleic acid or protein sequences, refer to two or more sequences or subsequences that are the same or have a specified percentage of amino acid residues or nucleotides that are the same, when compared and aligned for maximum correspondence, as measured using one of the following sequence comparison algorithms or by visual inspection.

Substantially identical: the phrase "substantially identical," in the context of two nucleic acid or protein sequences, refers to two or more sequences or subsequences that have at least 60%, preferably 80%, more preferably 90-95%, and most preferably at least 99% nucleotide or amino acid residue identity, when compared and aligned for maximum correspondence, as measured using one of the following sequence comparison algorithms or by visual inspection. Preferably, the substantial identity exists over a region of the sequences that is at least about 50 residues in length, more preferably over a region of at least about 100 residues, and most preferably the sequences are substantially identical over at least about 150 residues. In a most preferred embodiment, the sequences are

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substantially identical over the entire length of the coding regions. Furthermore, substantially identical nucleic acid or protein sequences perform substantially the same function.

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For sequence comparison, typically one sequence acts as a reference sequence to which test sequences are compared. When using a sequence comparison algorithm, test and reference sequences are input into a computer, subsequence coordinates are designated if necessary, and sequence algorithm program parameters are designated. The sequence comparison algorithm then calculates the percent sequence identity for the test sequence(s) relative to the reference sequence, based on the designated program parameters.

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Optimal alignment of sequences for comparison can be conducted, e.g., by the local homology algorithm of Smith & Waterman, *Adv. Appl. Math.* 2: 482 (1981), by the homology alignment algorithm of Needleman & Wunsch, *J. Mol. Biol.* 48: 443 (1970), by the search for similarity method of Pearson & Lipman, *Proc. Nat'l. Acad. Sci. USA* 85: 2444 (1988), by computerized implementations of these algorithms (GAP, BESTFIT, FASTA, and TFASTA in the Wisconsin Genetics Software Package, Genetics Computer Group, 575 Science Dr., Madison, WI), or by visual inspection (*see generally*, Ausubel *et al.*, *infra*).

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One example of an algorithm that is suitable for determining percent sequence identity and sequence similarity is the BLAST algorithm, which is described in Altschul et al., J. Mol. Biol. 215: 403-410 (1990). Software for performing BLAST analyses is publicly available through the National Center for Biotechnology Information (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/). This algorithm involves first identifying high scoring sequence pairs (HSPs) by identifying short words of length W in the query sequence, which either match or satisfy some positive-valued threshold score T when aligned with a word of the same length in a database sequence. T is referred to as the neighborhood word score threshold (Altschul et al., 1990). These initial neighborhood word hits act as seeds for initiating searches to find longer HSPs containing them. The word hits are then extended in both directions along each sequence for as far as the cumulative alignment score can be increased. Cumulative scores are calculated using, for nucleotide sequences, the parameters M (reward score for a pair of matching residues; always > 0) and N (penalty score for mismatching residues; always < 0). For amino acid sequences, a scoring matrix is used to calculate the cumulative score. Extension of the word hits in each direction are halted when the cumulative alignment score falls off by the quantity X from its maximum achieved value, the cumulative score goes to zero or below due to the accumulation of one or more negative-scoring

residue alignments, or the end of either sequence is reached. The BLAST algorithm parameters W, T, and X determine the sensitivity and speed of the alignment. The BLASTN program (for nucleotide sequences) uses as defaults a wordlength (W) of 11, an expectation (E) of 10, a cutoff of 100, M=5, N=-4, and a comparison of both strands. For amino acid sequences, the BLASTP program uses as defaults a wordlength (W) of 3, an expectation (E) of 10, and the BLOSUM62 scoring matrix (see Henikoff & Henikoff, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 89: 10915 (1989)).

In addition to calculating percent sequence identity, the BLAST algorithm also performs a statistical analysis of the similarity between two sequences (see, e.g., Karlin & Altschul, Proc. Nat'l. Acad. Sci. USA 90: 5873-5787 (1993)). One measure of similarity provided by the BLAST algorithm is the smallest sum probability (P(N)), which provides an indication of the probability by which a match between two nucleotide or amino acid sequences would occur by chance. For example, a test nucleic acid sequence is considered similar to a reference sequence if the smallest sum probability in a comparison of the test nucleic acid sequence to the reference nucleic acid sequence is less than about 0.1, more preferably less than about 0.01, and most preferably less than about 0.001.

Another indication that two nucleic acid sequences are substantially identical is that the two molecules hybridize to each other under stringent conditions. The phrase "hybridizing specifically to" refers to the binding, duplexing, or hybridizing of a molecule only to a particular nucleotide sequence under stringent conditions when that sequence is present in a complex mixture (e.g., total cellular) DNA or RNA. "Bind(s) substantially" refers to complementary hybridization between a probe nucleic acid and a target nucleic acid and embraces minor mismatches that can be accommodated by reducing the stringency of the hybridization media to achieve the desired detection of the target nucleic acid sequence.

"Stringent hybridization conditions" and "stringent hybridization wash conditions" in the context of nucleic acid hybridization experiments such as Southern and Northern hybridizations are sequence dependent, and are different under different environmental parameters. Longer sequences hybridize specifically at higher temperatures. An extensive guide to the hybridization of nucleic acids is found in Tijssen (1993) *Laboratory Techniques in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology-Hybridization with Nucleic* Acid Probes part I chapter 2 "Overview of principles of hybridization and the strategy of nucleic acid probe assays" Elsevier, New York. Generally, highly stringent hybridization and wash conditions are selected to be about 5°C lower than the thermal melting point (T_m) for the specific sequence

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at a defined ionic strength and pH. Typically, under "stringent conditions" a probe will hybridize to its target subsequence, but to no other sequences.

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The T_m is the temperature (under defined ionic strength and pH) at which 50% of the target sequence hybridizes to a perfectly matched probe. Very stringent conditions are selected to be equal to the T_m for a particular probe. An example of stringent hybridization conditions for hybridization of complementary nucleic acids which have more than 100 complementary residues on a filter in a Southern or northern blot is 50% formamide with 1 mg of heparin at 42°C, with the hybridization being carried out overnight. An example of highly stringent wash conditions is 0.1 5M NaCl at 72°C for about 15 minutes. An example of stringent wash conditions is a 0.2x SSC wash at 65°C for 15 minutes (see, Sambrook, infra, for a description of SSC buffer). Often, a high stringency wash is preceded by a low stringency wash to remove background probe signal. An example medium stringency wash for a duplex of, e.g., more than 100 nucleotides, is 1x SSC at 45°C for 15 minutes. An example low stringency wash for a duplex of, e.g., more than 100 nucleotides, is 4-6x SSC at 40°C for 15 minutes. For short probes (e.g., about 10 to 50 nucleotides), stringent conditions typically involve salt concentrations of less than about 1.0M Na ion, typically about 0.01 to 1.0 M Na ion concentration (or other salts) at pH 7.0 to 8.3, and the temperature is typically at least about 30°C. Stringent conditions can also be achieved with the addition of destabilizing agents such as formamide. In general, a signal to noise ratio of 2x (or higher) than that observed for an unrelated probe in the particular hybridization assay indicates detection of a specific hybridization. Nucleic acids that do not hybridize to each other under stringent conditions are still substantially identical if the proteins that they encode are substantially identical. This occurs, e.g., when a copy of a nucleic acid is created using the maximum codon degeneracy permitted by the genetic code.

The following are examples of sets of hybridization/wash conditions that may be used to clone homologous nucleotide sequences that are substantially identical to reference nucleotide sequences of the present invention: a reference nucleotide sequence preferably hybridizes to the reference nucleotide sequence in 7% sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS), 0.5 M NaPO₄, 1 mM EDTA at 50°C with washing in 2X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 50°C, more desirably in 7% sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS), 0.5 M NaPO₄, 1 mM EDTA at 50°C with washing in 1X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 50°C, more desirably still in 7% sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS), 0.5 M NaPO₄, 1 mM EDTA at 50°C, preferably in 7% sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS), 0.5 M NaPO₄, 1 mM EDTA at 50°C with washing in 0.1X

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SSC, 0.1% SDS at 50°C, more preferably in 7% sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS), 0.5 M NaPO₄, 1 mM EDTA at 50°C with washing in 0.1X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 65°C.

A further indication that two nucleic acid sequences or proteins are substantially identical is that the protein encoded by the first nucleic acid is immunologically cross reactive with, or specifically binds to, the protein encoded by the second nucleic acid. Thus, a protein is typically substantially identical to a second protein, for example, where the two proteins differ only by conservative substitutions.

The phrase "specifically (or selectively) binds to an antibody," or "specifically (or selectively) immunoreactive with," when referring to a protein or peptide, refers to a binding reaction which is determinative of the presence of the protein in the presence of a heterogeneous population of proteins and other biologics. Thus, under designated immunoassay conditions, the specified antibodies bind to a particular protein and do not bind in a significant amount to other proteins present in the sample. Specific binding to an antibody under such conditions may require an antibody that is selected for its specificity for a particular protein. For example, antibodies raised to the protein with the amino acid sequence encoded by any of the nucleic acid sequences of the invention can be selected to obtain antibodies specifically immunoreactive with that protein and not with other proteins except for polymorphic variants. A variety of immunoassay formats may be used to select antibodies specifically immunoreactive with a particular protein. For example, solid-phase ELISA immunoassays, Western blots, or immunohistochemistry are routinely used to select monoclonal antibodies specifically immunoreactive with a protein. See Harlow and Lane (1988) Antibodies, A Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor Publications, New York "Harlow and Lane"), for a description of immunoassay formats and conditions that can be used to determine specific immunoreactivity. Typically a specific or selective reaction will be at least twice background signal or noise and more typically more than 10 to 100 times background.

"Conservatively modified variations" of a particular nucleic acid sequence refers to those nucleic acid sequences that encode identical or essentially identical amino acid sequences, or where the nucleic acid sequence does not encode an amino acid sequence, to essentially identical sequences. Because of the degeneracy of the genetic code, a large number of functionally identical nucleic acids encode any given polypeptide. For instance the codons CGT, CGC, CGA, CGG, AGA, and AGG all encode the amino acid arginine. Thus, at every position where an arginine is specified by a codon, the codon can be altered to any of the corresponding codons described without altering the encoded protein. Such

nucleic acid variations are "silent variations" which are one species of "conservatively modified variations." Every nucleic acid sequence described herein which encodes a protein also describes every possible silent variation, except where otherwise noted. One of skill will recognize that each codon in a nucleic acid (except ATG, which is ordinarily the only codon for methionine) can be modified to yield a functionally identical molecule by standard techniques. Accordingly, each "silent variation" of a nucleic acid which encodes a protein is implicit in each described sequence.

Furthermore, one of skill will recognize that individual substitutions deletions or additions that alter, add or delete a single amino acid or a small percentage of amino acids (typically less than 5%, more typically less than 1%) in an encoded sequence are "conservatively modified variations," where the alterations result in the substitution of an amino acid with a chemically similar amino acid. Conservative substitution tables providing functionally similar amino acids are well known in the art. The following five groups each contain amino acids that are conservative substitutions for one another: Aliphatic: Glycine (G), Alanine (A), Valine (V), Leucine (L), Isoleucine (I); Aromatic: Phenylalanine (F), Tyrosine (Y), Tryptophan (W); Sulfur-containing: Methionine (M), Cysteine (C); Basic: Arginine (R), Lysine (K), Histidine (H); Acidic: Aspartic acid (D), Glutamic acid (E), Asparagine (N), Glutamine (Q). See also, Creighton (1984) Proteins, W.H. Freeman and Company. In addition, individual substitutions, deletions or additions which alter, add or delete a single amino acid or a small percentage of amino acids in an encoded sequence are also "conservatively modified variations."

A "subsequence" refers to a sequence of nucleic acids or amino acids that comprise a part of a longer sequence of nucleic acids or amino acids (e.g., protein) respectively.

Nucleic acids are "elongated" when additional nucleotides (or other analogous molecules) are incorporated into the nucleic acid. Most commonly, this is performed with a polymerase (e.g., a DNA polymerase), e.g., a polymerase which adds sequences at the 3' terminus of the nucleic acid.

Two nucleic acids are "recombined" when sequences from each of the two nucleic acids are combined in a progeny nucleic acid. Two sequences are "directly" recombined when both of the nucleic acids are substrates for recombination. Two sequences are "indirectly recombined" when the sequences are recombined using an intermediate such as a cross-over oligonucleotide. For indirect recombination, no more than one of the sequences is an actual substrate for recombination, and in some cases, neither sequence is a substrate for recombination.

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A "specific binding affinity" between two molecules, for example, a ligand and a receptor, means a preferential binding of one molecule for another in a mixture of molecules. The binding of the molecules can be considered specific if the binding affinity is about 1 \times 10⁴ M⁻¹ to about 1 \times 10⁸ M⁻¹ or greater.

Transformation: a process for introducing heterologous DNA into a host cell or organism.

"Transformed," "transgenic," and "recombinant" refer to a host organism such as a bacterium or a plant into which a heterologous nucleic acid molecule has been introduced. The nucleic acid molecule can be stably integrated into the genome of the host or the nucleic acid molecule can also be present as an extrachromosomal molecule. Such an extrachromosomal molecule can be auto-replicating. Transformed cells, tissues, or plants are understood to encompass not only the end product of a transformation process, but also transgenic progeny thereof. A "non-transformed," "non-transgenic," or "non-recombinant" host refers to a wild-type organism, e.g., a bacterium or plant, which does not contain the heterologous nucleic acid molecule.

The present invention addresses the aforementioned needs by providing several homologues of the *Arabidopsis NIM1* gene from additional species of plants. In particular, the present invention concerns the isolation of *Nicotiana tabacum* (tobacco), *Lycopersicon esculentum* (tomato), *Brassica napus* (oilseed rape), *Arabidopsis thaliana*, *Beta vulgaris* (sugarbeet), *Helianthus annuus* (sunflower), and *Solanum tuberosum* (potato) homologues of the *NIM1* gene, which encode proteins believed to be involved in the signal transduction cascade responsive to biological and chemical inducers that lead to systemic acquired resistance in plants.

Hence, the present invention is directed to an isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes SEQ ID NO:2, 4, 6, 8, 16, 18, 20, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, or 74.

In another embodiment, the present invention is directed to an isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 5, 7, 15, 17, 19, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, or 73.

In a further embodiment, the present invention is directed to an isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence that comprises an at least 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, or 50 (preferably 20) consecutive base pair portion identical in sequence to an at least 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, or 50 (preferably 20) consecutive base pair portion of SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 5, 7, 15,

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17, 19, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, or 73.

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In still another embodiment, the present invention is directed to an isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence that can be amplified from a *Lycopersicon esculentum* DNA library using the polymerase chain reaction with the pair of primers set forth as SEQ ID NO:9 and 10, SEQ ID NO:21 and 24, SEQ ID NO:22 and 24, SEQ ID NO:25 and 28, SEQ ID NO:26 and 28, or SEQ ID NO:59 and 60.

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In yet another embodiment, the present invention is directed to an isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence that can be amplified from a *Beta vulgaris* DNA library using the polymerase chain reaction with the pair of primers set forth as SEQ ID NO:22 and 24 or SEQ ID NO:26 and 28.

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In a further embodiment, the present invention is directed to an isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence that can be amplified from a *Helianthus annuus* DNA library using the polymerase chain reaction with the pair of primers set forth as SEQ ID NO:26 and 28.

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In another embodiment, the present invention is directed to an isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence that can be amplified from a *Solanum tuberosum* DNA library using the polymerase chain reaction with the pair of primers set forth as SEQ ID NO:21 and 24, SEQ ID NO:25 and 28, or SEQ ID NO:26 and 28.

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In a further embodiment, the present invention is directed to an isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence that can be amplified from a *Brassica napus* DNA library using the polymerase chain reaction with the pair of primers set forth as SEQ ID NO:9 and 10 or SEQ ID NO:26 and 28.

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In yet another embodiment, the present invention is directed to an isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence that can be amplified from an *Arabidopsis thaliana* DNA library using the polymerase chain reaction with the pair of primers set forth as SEQ ID NO:13 and 14, SEQ ID NO:21 and 24, or SEQ ID NO:22 and 24.

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In a further embodiment, the present invention is directed to an isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence that can be amplified from an *Nicotiana tabacum* DNA library using the polymerase chain reaction with the pair of primers set forth as SEQ ID NO:9 and 10, SEQ ID NO:11 and 12, SEQ ID NO:21 and 24, SEQ ID NO:22 and 24, SEQ ID NO:25 and 28, or SEQ ID NO:26 and 28; or

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In a further embodiment, the present invention is directed to an isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence that can be amplified from an plant DNA library using the polymerase chain reaction with a pair of primers comprising the first 20 nucleotides and the reverse complement of the last 20 nucleotides of the coding sequence (CDS) of SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 5, 7, 15, 17, 19, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, or 73.

The present invention also encompasses a chimeric gene comprising a promoter active in plants operatively linked to a *NIM1* homologue coding sequence of the present invention, a recombinant vector comprising such a chimeric gene, wherein the vector is capable of being stably transformed into a host, as well as a host stably transformed with such a vector. Preferably, the host is a plant such as one of the following agronomically important crops: rice, wheat, barley, rye, canola, sugarcane, corn, potato, carrot, sweet potato, sugar beet, bean, pea, chicory, lettuce, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, turnip, radish, spinach, asparagus, onion, garlic, eggplant, pepper, celery, squash, pumpkin, cucumber, apple, pear, quince, melon, plum, cherry, peach, nectarine, apricot, strawberry, grape, raspberry, blackberry, pineapple, avocado, papaya, mango, banana, soybean, tobacco, tomato, sorghum, and sugarcane. The present invention also encompasses seed from a plant of the invention.

Further, the present invention is directed to a method of increasing SAR gene expression in a plant by expressing in the plant a chimeric gene that itself comprises a promoter active in plants operatively linked to a *NIM1* homologue coding sequence of the present invention, wherein the encoded protein is expressed in the transformed plant at higher levels than in a wild type plant.

In addition, the present invention is directed to a method of enhancing disease resistance in a plant by expressing in the plant a chimeric gene that itself comprises a promoter active in plants operatively linked to a *NIM1* homologue coding sequence of the present invention, wherein the encoded protein is expressed in the transformed plant at higher levels than in a wild type plant.

Further, the present invention is directed to a PCR primer selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:9-14, 21-28, 59, and 60.

The present invention also encompasses a method for isolating a *NIM1* homologue involved in the signal transduction cascade leading to systemic acquired resistance in plants comprising amplifying a DNA molecule from a plant DNA library using the polymerase chain reaction with a pair of primers corresponding to the first 20 nucleotides and the

reverse complement of the last 20 nucleotides of the coding sequence (CDS) of SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 5, 7, 15, 17, 19, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, or 73 or with the pair of primers set forth as SEQ ID NO:9 and 10, SEQ ID NO:11 and 12, SEQ ID NO:13 and 14, SEQ ID NO:21 and 24, SEQ ID NO:22 and 24, SEQ ID NO:21 and 23, SEQ ID NO:25 and 28, SEQ ID NO:26 and 28, or SEQ ID NO:59 and 60. In a preferred embodiment, the plant DNA library is a *Nicotiana tabacum* (tobacco), *Lycopersicon esculentum* (tomato), *Brassica napus* (oilseed rape), *Arabidopsis thaliana*, *Beta vulgaris* (sugarbeet), *Helianthus annuus* (sunflower), or *Solanum tuberosum* (potato) DNA library.

Northern data on several of the *NIM1* homologues described herein indicates constitutive expression or BTH-inducibility. The homologues of the *NIM1* gene described herein are predicted to encode proteins involved in the signal transduction cascade responsive to biological and chemical inducers, which leads to systemic acquired resistance in plants. The present invention also concerns the transgenic expression of such *NIM1* homologues in plants to increase SAR gene expression and enhance disease resistance.

The DNA sequences of the invention can be isolated using the techniques described in the examples below, or by PCR using the sequences set forth in the sequence listing as the basis for constructing PCR primers. For example, oligonucleotides having the sequence of approximately the first and last 20-25 consecutive nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:7 (e.g., nucleotides 1-20 and 1742-1761 of SEQ ID NO:7) can be used as PCR primers to amplify the cDNA sequence (SEQ ID NO:7) directly from a cDNA library from the source plant (*Arabidopsis thaliana*). The other DNA sequences of the invention can likewise be amplified by PCR from cDNA or genomic DNA libraries of the respective plants using the ends of the DNA sequences set forth in the sequence listing as the basis for PCR primers.

The transgenic expression of the *NIM1* homologues of the invention in plants is predicted to result in immunity to a wide array of plant pathogens, which include, but are not limited to viruses or viroids, e.g. tobacco or cucumber mosaic virus, ringspot virus or necrosis virus, pelargonium leaf curl virus, red clover mottle virus, tomato bushy stunt virus, and like viruses; fungi, e.g. oomycetes such as *Phythophthora parasitica* and *Peronospora tabacina*; bacteria, e.g. *Pseudomonas syringae* and *Pseudomonas tabaci*; insects such as aphids, e.g. *Myzus persicae*; and lepidoptera, e.g., *Heliothus spp.*; and nematodes, e.g., *Meloidogyne incognita*. The vectors and methods of the invention are useful against a number of disease organisms of maize including but not limited to downy mildews such as *Scleropthora macrospora*, *Sclerophthora rayissiae*, *Sclerospora graminicola*,

Peronosclerospora sorghi, Peronosclerospora philippinensis, Peronosclerospora sacchari and Peronosclerospora maydis; rusts such as Puccinia sorphi, Puccinia polysora and Physopella zeae; other fungi such as Cercospora zeae-maydis, Colletotrichum graminicola, Fusarium monoliforme, Gibberella zeae, Exserohilum turcicum, Kabatiellu zeae, Erysiphe graminis, Septoria and Bipolaris maydis; and bacteria such as Erwinia stewartii.

The methods of the present invention can be utilized to confer disease resistance to a wide variety of plants, including gymnosperms, monocots, and dicots. Although disease resistance can be conferred upon any plants falling within these broad classes, it is particularly useful in agronomically important crop plants, such as rice, wheat, barley, rye, rape, corn, potato, carrot, sweet potato, sugar beet, bean, pea, chicory, lettuce, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, turnip, radish, spinach, asparagus, onion, garlic, eggplant, pepper, celery, carrot, squash, pumpkin, zucchini, cucumber, apple, pear, quince, melon, plum, cherry, peach, nectarine, apricot, strawberry, grape, raspberry, blackberry, pineapple, avocado, papaya, mango, banana, soybean, tobacco, tomato, sorghum and sugarcane.

A *NIM1* homologue coding sequence of the present invention may be inserted into an expression cassette designed for plants to construct a chimeric gene according to the invention using standard genetic engineering techniques. The choice of specific regulatory sequences such as promoter, signal sequence, 5' and 3' untranslated sequences, and enhancer appropriate for the achieving the desired pattern and level of expression in the chosen plant host is within the level of skill of the routineer in the art. The resultant molecule, containing the individual elements linked in proper reading frame, may be inserted into a vector capable of being transformed into a host plant cell.

Examples of promoters capable of functioning in plants or plant cells (i.e., those capable of driving expression of associated coding sequences such as those coding for NIM1 homologues in plant cells) include the *Arabidopsis* and maize ubiquitin promoters; cauliflower mosaic virus (CaMV) 19S or 35S promoters and CaMV double promoters; rice actin promoters; PR-1 promoters from tobacco, *Arabidopsis*, or maize; nopaline synthase promoters; small subunit of ribulose bisphosphate carboxylase (ssuRUBISCO) promoters, and the like. Especially preferred is the *Arabidopsis* ubiquitin promoter. The promoters themselves may be modified to manipulate promoter strength to increase expression of the associated coding sequence in accordance with art-recognized procedures. Preferred promoters for use with the present invention are those that confer high level constitutive expression.

Signal or transit peptides may be fused to the *NIM1* homologue coding sequence in the chimeric DNA constructs of the invention to direct transport of the expressed protein to the desired site of action. Examples of signal peptides include those natively linked to the plant pathogenesis-related proteins, e.g. PR-1, PR-2, and the like. *See, e.g.,* Payne *et al.*, 1988. Examples of transit peptides include the chloroplast transit peptides such as those described in Von Heijne *et al.* (1991), *Mazur et al.* (1987), and Vorst *et al.* (1988); and mitochondrial transit peptides such as those described in Boutry *et al.* (1987). Also included are sequences that result in localization of the encoded protein to various cellular compartments such as the vacuole. See, for example, Neuhaus *et al.* (1991) and Chrispeels (1991).

The chimeric DNA construct(s) of the invention may contain multiple copies of a promoter or multiple copies of a *NIM1* homologue coding sequence of the present invention. In addition, the construct(s) may include coding sequences for markers and coding sequences for other peptides such as signal or transit peptides, each in proper reading frame with the other functional elements in the DNA molecule. The preparation of such constructs are within the ordinary level of skill in the art.

Useful markers include peptides providing herbicide, antibiotic or drug resistance, such as, for example, resistance to protoporphyrinogen oxidase inhibitors, hygromycin, kanamycin, G418, gentamycin, lincomycin, methotrexate, glyphosate, phosphinothricin, or the like. These markers can be used to select cells transformed with the chimeric DNA constructs of the invention from untransformed cells. Other useful markers are peptidic enzymes which can be easily detected by a visible reaction, for example a color reaction, for example luciferase, ß-glucuronidase, or ß-galactosidase.

Chimeric genes designed for plant expression such as those described herein can be introduced into the plant cell in a number of art-recognized ways. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the choice of method might depend on the type of plant (i.e. monocot or dicot) and/or organelle (i.e. nucleus, chloroplast, mitochondria) targeted for transformation. Suitable methods of transforming plant cells include microinjection (Crossway et al., 1986), electroporation (Riggs et al., 1986), Agrobacterium mediated transformation (Hinchee et al., 1988; Ishida et al., 1996), direct gene transfer (Paszkowski et al., 1984; Hayashimoto et al., 1990), and ballistic particle acceleration using devices available from Agracetus, Inc., Madison, Wisconsin and Dupont, Inc., Wilmington, Delaware (see, for example, U.S. Patent 4,945,050; and McCabe et al., 1988). See also, Weissinger et al. (1988); Sanford et al. (1987) (onion); Christou et al. (1988) (soybean); McCabe et al. (1988) (soybean); Datta et

al. (1990) (rice); Klein et al. (1988) (maize); Klein et al. (1988) (maize); Klein et al. (1988) (maize); Fromm et al. (1990); and Gordon-Kamm et al. (1990) (maize); Svab et al. (1990) (tobacco chloroplasts); Gordon-Kamm et al. (1993) (maize); Shimamoto et al. (1989) (rice); Christou et al. (1991) (rice); Datta et al. (1990) (rice); European Patent Application EP 0 332 581 (orchardgrass and other Pooideae); Vasil et al. (1993) (wheat); Weeks et al. (1993) (wheat); Wan et al. (1994) (barley); Jahne et al. (1994) (barley); Umbeck et al. (1987) (cotton); Casas et al. (1993) (sorghum); Somers et al. (1992) (oats); Torbert et al. (1995) (oats); Weeks et al.,(1993) (wheat); WO 94/13822 (wheat); and Nehra et al. (1994) (wheat). A particularly preferred set of embodiments for the introduction of recombinant DNA molecules into maize by microprojectile bombardment can be found in Koziel et al. (1993); Hill et al. (1995) and Koziel et al. (1996). An additional preferred embodiment is the protoplast transformation method for maize as disclosed in EP 0 292 435.

Once a chimeric gene comprising a *NIM1* homologue coding sequence has been transformed into a particular plant species, it may be propagated in that species or moved into other varieties of the same species, particularly including commercial varieties, using traditional breeding techniques. Particularly preferred plants of the invention include the agronomically important crops listed above. The genetic properties engineered into the transgenic seeds and plants described above are passed on by sexual reproduction and can thus be maintained and propagated in progeny plants.

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EXAMPLES

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The invention is illustrated in further detail by the following detailed procedures, preparations, and examples. The examples are for illustration only, and are not to be construed as limiting the scope of the present invention. Standard recombinant DNA and molecular cloning techniques used here are well known in the art and are described by Sambrook, et al., 1989; by T.J. Silhavy, M.L. Berman, and L.W. Enquist, 1984; and by Ausubel, F.M. et al., 1987.

I. Isolation of Homologues of the Arabidopsis NIM1 Gene

Example 1: Isolation of a NIM1 Homologue from Nicotiana tabacum

Plasmid DNA from a mass excision of phage from a tobacco cDNA library is used as a template for PCR using the following primer pairs: 5'-AGATTATTGTCAAGTCTAATG-3' (SEQ ID NO:9) + 5'-TTCCATGTACCTTTGCTTC-3' (SEQ ID NO:10), and 5'-GCGGATCCATGGATAATAGTAGG-3' (SEQ ID NO:11) + 5'-GCGGATCCTATTTCCTAAAAGGG-3' (SEQ ID NO:12). Cycling conditions are preferably 94 degrees for one minute, 40 degrees for one minute, and 72 degrees for 1.5 minutes, and the reaction is preferably carried out for 40 cycles. PCR products are run out on agarose gels, excised, and cloned into pCRII-TOPO (Invitrogen).

The full-length cDNA sequence of this tobacco *NIM1* homologue is shown in SEQ ID NO:1, and the protein encoded by this cDNA sequence is shown in SEQ ID NO:2. A tobacco *NIM1* homologue comprising SEQ ID NO:1 has been deposited as pNOV1206 with the NRRL (Agricultural Research Service, Patent Culture Collection, Northern Regional Research Center, 1815 North University Street, Peoria, Illinois 61604, U.S.A) on August 17, 1998, and assigned accession no. NRRL B-30051.

Example 2: Isolation of a NIM1 Homologue from Lycopersicon esculentum

Phagemids are excised from λ ZAPII cDNA libraries of tomato using a protocol from Stratagene. Phagemids (plasmids) are mass-transformed into *E. coli* XL1-Blue in 10 pools of about 80,000 clones each and DNA is extracted from these pools. The pools are screened by PCR for the presence of *NIM1* homologues by PCR using the following

primers: 5'-AGATTATTGTCAAGTCTAATG-3' (SEQ ID NO:9) and 5'-TTCCATGTACCTTTGCTTC-3' (SEQ ID NO:10).

Sequences amplified from the pools are confirmed to contain *NIM1* homologues by cloning the PCR-amplified DNA fragment and sequencing. Pools are made successively smaller and screened by PCR using the same primers mentioned above for the presence of the *NIM1* homologues until a single clone containing the homologue is obtained. In the event that the cDNA clone contains a partial gene missing the 5' end, 5' RACE (Rapid Amplification of cDNA Ends) is used to obtain the full-length sequence of the gene.

The full-length cDNA sequence of this tomato *NIM1* homologue is shown in SEQ ID NO:3, and the protein encoded by this cDNA sequence is shown in SEQ ID NO:4. A tomato *NIM1* homologue comprising SEQ ID NO:3 has been deposited as pNOV1204 with the NRRL (Agricultural Research Service, Patent Culture Collection, Northern Regional Research Center, 1815 North University Street, Peoria, Illinois 61604, U.S.A) on August 17, 1998, and assigned accession no. NRRL B-30050.

Example 3: Isolation of a NIM1 Homologue from Brassica napus

Phagemids are excised from λ ZAPII cDNA libraries of *Brassica napus* using a protocol from Stratagene. Phagemids (plasmids) are mass-transformed into *E. coli* XL1-Blue in 10 pools of about 80,000 clones each and DNA is extracted from these pools. The pools are screened by PCR for the presence of *NIM1* homologues by PCR using the following primers: 5'-AGATTATTGTCAAGTCTAATG-3' (SEQ ID NO:9) and 5'-TTCCATGTACCTTTGCTTC-3' (SEQ ID NO:10).

Sequences amplified from the pools are confirmed to contain *NIM1* homologues by cloning the PCR-amplified DNA fragment and sequencing. Pools are made successively smaller and screened by PCR using the same primers mentioned above for the presence of the *NIM1* homologues until a single clone containing the homologue is obtained. In the event that the cDNA clone contains a partial gene, missing the 5' end, 5' RACE (Rapid Amplification of cDNA Ends) is used to obtain the full-length sequence of the gene.

A partial cDNA sequence of this *Brassica napus NIM1* homologue is shown in SEQ ID NO:5, and the protein encoded by this cDNA sequence is shown in SEQ ID NO:6. A *Brassica napus NIM1* homologue comprising SEQ ID NO:5 has been deposited as pNOV1203 with the NRRL (Agricultural Research Service, Patent Culture Collection,

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Northern Regional Research Center, 1815 North University Street, Peoria, Illinois 61604, U.S.A) on August 17, 1998, and assigned accession no. NRRL B-30049.

Example 4: Isolation of a NIM1 Homologue from Arabidopsis thaliana

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BLAST searches using the *Arabidopsis* or tomato NIM1 amino acid sequences as queries detect GenBank entry B26306, which contains *Arabidopsis* genomic sequence from the Bacterial Artificial Chromosome (BAC) F18D8. Part of the BAC sequence is predicted to encode a protein with significant similarity (47% amino acid identity) to NIM1. The following primers are designed to regions of the F18D8 sequence: 5'-TCAAGGCCTTGGATTCAGATG-3' (SEQ ID NO:13) and 5'-

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The primers are used in a PCR reaction with DNA from a pFL61-based *Arabidopsis* cDNA library as a template. Preferable cycling conditions are 94 degrees for 30 seconds, 53 degrees for 30 seconds, 72 degrees for 30 seconds. The reaction is preferably run for 40 cycles. A PCR product of the predicted size (290 base pairs) is detected, and the cDNA clone corresponding to the F18D8 primers is purified from the cDNA library by sequential purification by passage of increasingly smaller amounts of the library through *E. coli* and rediagnosis of the presence of the clone by PCR. Ultimately, a single positive clone is

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obtained and sequenced. The sequence of the clone confirms the presence of an open reading frame with significant homology to NIM1.

A full-length cDNA sequence of this Arabidopsis thaliana NIM1 homologue is shown

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in SEQ ID NO:7, and the protein encoded by this cDNA sequence is shown in SEQ ID NO:8. An *Arabidopsis thaliana NIM1* homologue comprising SEQ ID NO:7 has been deposited as *AtNMLc5* in *E. coli* with the NRRL (Agricultural Research Service, Patent Culture Collection, Northern Regional Research Center, 1815 North University Street.

Peoria, Illinois 61604, U.S.A) on May 25, 1999, and assigned accession no. NRRL B-

30139.

ATTAACTGCGCTACGTCCGTC-3' (SEQ ID NO:14).

Example 5: Design of Degenerate Primers

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In addition to the *NIM1* gene (Ryals *et al.*, 1997) and the *NIM*-like gene described above in Example 4 (*AtNMLc5* - SEQ ID NO:7), *Arabidopsis thaliana* contains three other *NIM*-like (*NML*) genomic sequences: *AtNMLc2* (SEQ ID NO:15), *AtNMLc4-1* (SEQ ID

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NO:17), and AtNMLc4-2 (SEQ ID NO:19), where c[#] stands for the chromosome number on which the particular NML gene is located. Using the GCG Seqweb multiple sequence alignment program (Pretty, Wisconsin Genetics Computer Group), the NIM1 sequences from Arabidopsis thaliana (Ryals et al., 1997), Nicotiana tabacum (Example 1 - SEQ ID NO:1), and Lycopersicon esculentum (Example 2 - SEQ ID NO:3), as well as the NML sequences from Arabidopsis thaliana (SEQ ID NO:7, 15, 17, and 19) are aligned. Based on this alignment, three regions emerge with sufficient conservation to design degenerate PCR primers for PCR amplification of NIM1 homologues from other crop species, including sugarbeet, sunflower, potato, and canola. The primers designed from these conserved regions are listed below in Table 1. The NIM 1(A-D) primers are designed using a lineup with only the NIM1 genes from Arabidopsis thaliana (Ryals et al., 1997), Nicotiana tabacum (Example 1 - SEQ ID NO:1), and Lycopersicon esculentum (Example 2 - SEQ ID NO:3). The NIM 2(A-D) primers are designed using a lineup with these three sequences in addition to the four NML sequences from Arabidopsis thaliana (SEQ ID NO:7, 15, 17, and 19). Primers are preferably synthesized by Genosys Biotechnologies, Inc. (The Woodlands, Texas). Positions of degeneracy are indicated in Table 1 by the notation of more than one base at a single site in the oligonucleotide. "Orientation" designates whether the primer is directed towards the 3' end (Downstream) or the 5' end (Upstream) of the cDNA.

Table 1: Degenerate Primers

Primer	Sequence (5' to 3')	SEQ ID NO:	Orientation
NIM 1A	GAGATTATTGTCAAGTCTAATGTAGATA	SEQ ID NO:21	Downstream
	T		
NIM 1B	ACTGGACTCGGATGATATTGAATTA	SEQ ID NO:22	Downstream
	TT T G G		<u> </u>
NIM 1C	TAACTCAACATCATCAGAATCAAATGC	SEQ ID NO:23	Upstream
	T T C G C G		
NIM 1D	GTTGAGCAAGAGCAACTCTATTTTCAAG	SEQ ID NO:24	Upstream
	T C CC		·
	G		
	T		
NIM 2A	TGCATAGAAATAATTGTGAAGTCTAATGTAGA	SEQ ID NO:25	Downstream
	T G TG C G T		
NIM 2B	GGCACTGGACTCAGATGATGTTGAACT	SEQ ID NO:26	Downstream
	T T T GT		
NIM 2C	AACTCAACATCATCAGAATCCAATGCC	SEQ ID NO:27	Upstream
	GT T G G		'
NIM 2D	AGTTGAGCAAGGCCAACTCGATTTTCAAAAT	SEQ ID NO:28	Upstream
	T C A T GG		
	T		

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Example 6: PCR Amplification of NIM-like DNA Fragments From Crop Species

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NIM-like DNA fragments are amplified from Arabidopsis, tomato, tobacco, sugarbeet, sunflower, potato, and canola, using either genomic DNA or cDNA as templates. The primer combinations used, along with the expected fragment sizes, are listed below in Table 2.

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Table 2: Primer combinations and DNA fragment sizes

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Left Primer Right Primer Fragment Size (bp) NIM 1A NIM 1D 669 NIM 1A NIM 1C 195 NIM 1B NIM 1D 499 NIM 2A NIM 2D 676 NIM 2A NIM 2C 200 NIM 2B NIM 2D 503

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Degenerate primer PCR is preferably performed with Ready-To-Go PCR Beads (Amersham, Piscataway, NJ) in a GeneAmp PCR System 9700 (PE Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA). 20 to 40 ng of genomic DNA or 5 to 10 ng of cDNA is used in each reaction, with each primer at a final concentration of 0.8 µM. Preferable cycling parameters are as follows: 94°C for 1 minute; 3 cycles of [94°C for 30 seconds; 37°C for 30 seconds; 72°C for 2 minutes]; 35 cycles of [94°C for 30 seconds; 60°C for 30 seconds; 72°C for 2 minutes]; 72°C for 7 minutes; 4°C hold. Reaction products are analyzed on 2% agarose gels and DNA fragments of the appropriate size are excised. DNA fragments are isolated from agarose bands using, for example, the Geneclean III Kit (BIO 101, Inc., Carlsbad, CA) and cloned using, for example, the TOPO TA Cloning Kit (Invitrogen Corporation, Carlsbad, CA). Plasmids are isolated using, for example, the CONCERT Rapid Plasmid Miniprep System (Life Technologies, Inc., Rockville, MD) and sequenced by standard protocols.

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NIM-like DNA fragments are obtained from all plant species attempted, and in many cases multiple, unique NIM-like sequences are isolated. Table 3 and Figure 2 detail the NIM-like fragments that are isolated.

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PCR Template | Unique Clones | SEQ ID NO: **Species** Successful Primer

Table 3: NIM-like PCR fragments

	Pairs			
Arabidopsis	1A/1D; 1B/1D	Genomic DNA	One	
Tobacco	1A/1D; 1B/1D; 2A/2D; 2B/2D	cDNA	Four	SEQ ID NO: 29, 31, 33, and 35
Tomato	1A/1D; 1B/1D; 2A/2D; 2B/2D	Genomic DNA, cDNA	One	SEQ ID NO: 37
Sugarbeet	1B/1D; 2B/2D	Genomic DNA, cDNA	One	SEQ ID NO: 39
Sunflower	2B/2D	cDNA	Two	SEQ ID NO: 41 and 43
Potato	1A/1D; 1A/1C; 1B/1D; 2A/2D; 2B/2D	cDNA	Three	SEQ ID NO: 45, 47, and 49
Canola	2B/2D	cDNA	Four	SEQ ID NO: 51, 53, 55, and 57

Based on these results, the degenerate primer PCR described above can amplify NIM-like fragments from a wide variety of plant species. In particular, the primer combination of NIM 2B/NIM 2D is successful with cDNA as a template from all species attempted. The use of Ready-To-Go PCR Beads is especially preferably for obtaining products. In addition, using cDNA as a template is preferable for all samples except Arabidopsis, tomato and sugarbeet, where genomic DNA is sufficient.

Example 7: Additional Degenerate Primers

A new pair of degenerate primers is designed based on a sequence alignment of the four tobacco fragments (SEQ ID NO: 29, 31, 33, and 35) and the tomato sequence (SEQ ID NO: 37) for use in determining whether tomato also contains similar NIM-like sequences that are not amplified with the degenerate primers listed in Table 1. The primers designed from these fragments are listed below in Table 3 and are preferably synthesized by Genosys Biotechnologies, Inc. (The Woodlands, Texas). Positions of degeneracy are indicated in Table 3 by the notation of more than one base at a single site in the

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oligonucleotide. "Orientation" designates whether the primer is directed towards the 3' end (Downstream) or the 5' end (Upstream) of the cDNA.

Table 4: Additional degenerate primers

Primer	Sequence (5' TO 3')	SEQ ID NO:	Orientation
NIM 3A	TAGATGAAGCATACGCTCTCCACTATGCTGT	SEQ ID NO:59	Downstream
	TCTTT		
NIM 3B	GGCTCCTTACGCATGGCAGCAACATGAAGGAC	SEQ ID NO:60	Upstream
	T C T TG C		'

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Degenerate primer PCR is performed as described above using tomato cDNA, and potential products are cloned and sequenced. The sequence analysis reveals two classes of *NIM*-like fragments: the first is identical to the tomato sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 37, and the second is unique in tomato and 88% identical to the tobacco sequences shown in SEQ ID NO:31 and 33. The sequence of this new tomato sequence is presented in SEQ ID NO:61.

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Example 8: Full-length NIM-like cDNA's

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Corresponding cDNA sequences upstream and downstream from *NIM*-like PCR fragments are preferably obtained by RACE PCR using the SMART RACE cDNA Amplification Kit (Clontech, Palo Alto, CA). Preferably, at least three independent RACE products are sequenced for each 5'- or 3'-end in order to eliminate PCR errors. Resulting full-length cDNA sequences for Sugarbeet, Sunflower B, and Tobacco B *NIM1* homologues, which correspond to the *NIM*-like PCR fragments shown in SEQ ID NO:39, 43, and 31 are presented as SEQ ID NO:63, 65, and 73 respectively.

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NIM-like Arabidopsis thaliana cDNA's corresponding to the NIM-like genomic sequences AtNMLc2 (SEQ ID NO:15), AtNMLc4-1 (SEQ ID NO:17), and AtNMLc4-2 (SEQ ID NO:19), are preferably cloned by RT-PCR. Total RNA from Arabidopsis thaliana is reverse transcribed using oligo dT primer. The resulting first strand cDNA is amplified by PCR using specific sense and antisense oligonucleotide primers designed based on the 5' and 3' ends of the coding region of each genomic sequence (SEQ ID NO:15, 17, and 19). PCR fragments of the predicted sizes are cloned into a vector and sequenced to confirm that these cDNA clones correspond to the NIM-like genomic sequences. A cDNA sequence corresponding to the NIM-like genomic sequence AtNMLc2 (SEQ ID NO:15) is presented as

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SEQ ID NO:67; a full-length cDNA sequence corresponding to the *NIM*-like genomic sequence *AtNMLc4-1* (SEQ ID NO:17) is presented as SEQ ID NO:69; and a full-length cDNA sequence corresponding to the *NIM*-like genomic sequence *AtNMLc4-2* (SEQ ID NO:19) is presented as SEQ ID NO:71.

Example 9: Northern Analysis

Northern data shows that expression of the sugarbeet *NIM*-like clone (SEQ ID NO:39 and 63) increases three to seven fold after 100µM or 300 µM BTH (benzo(1,2,3)thiadiazole-7-carbothioic acid *S*-methyl ester) treatment. Also, Northern data shows that expression of the Sunflower A *NIM*-like clone (SEQ ID NO:41) is constitutive. Furthermore, Northern data shows that expression of the Sunflower B *NIM*-like clone (SEQ ID NO:43 and 65) increases two fold after 100µM or 300 µM BTH treatment.

II. Expression of the Gene Sequences of the Invention In Plants

A NIM1 homologue of the present invention can be incorporated into plant cells using conventional recombinant DNA technology. Generally, this involves inserting a coding sequence of the invention into an expression system to which the coding sequence is heterologous (i.e., not normally present) using standard cloning procedures known in the art. The vector contains the necessary elements for the transcription and translation of the inserted protein-coding sequences. A large number of vector systems known in the art can be used, such as plasmids, bacteriophage viruses and other modified viruses. Suitable vectors include, but are not limited to, viral vectors such as lambda vector systems λgtl1, λgtl0 and Charon 4; plasmid vectors such as pBI121, pBR322, pACYC177, pACYC184, pAR series, pKK223-3, pUC8, pUC9, pUC18, pUC19, pLG339, pRK290, pKC37, pKC101, pCDNAII; and other similar systems. The components of the expression system may also be modified to increase expression. For example, truncated sequences, nucleotide substitutions or other modifications may be employed. The expression systems described herein can be used to transform virtually any crop plant cell under suitable conditions. Transformed cells can be regenerated into whole plants such that the NIM1 homologue increases SAR gene expression and enhances disease resistance in the transgenic plants.

Example 10: Construction of Plant Expression Cassettes

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Coding sequences intended for expression in transgenic plants are first assembled in expression cassettes behind a suitable promoter expressible in plants. The expression cassettes may also comprise any further sequences required or selected for the expression of the transgene. Such sequences include, but are not restricted to, transcription terminators, extraneous sequences to enhance expression such as introns, vital sequences, and sequences intended for the targeting of the gene product to specific organelles and cell compartments. These expression cassettes can then be easily transferred to the plant transformation vectors described below. The following is a description of various components of typical expression cassettes.

1. Promoters

The selection of the promoter used in expression cassettes will determine the spatial and temporal expression pattern of the transgene in the transgenic plant. Selected promoters will express transgenes in specific cell types (such as leaf epidermal cells, mesophyll cells, root cortex cells) or in specific tissues or organs (roots, leaves or flowers, for example) and the selection will reflect the desired location of accumulation of the gene product. Alternatively, the selected promoter may drive expression of the gene under various inducing conditions. Promoters vary in their strength, i.e., ability to promote transcription. Depending upon the host cell system utilized, any one of a number of suitable promoters can be used, including the gene's native promoter. The following are non-limiting examples of promoters that may be used in expression cassettes.

a. Constitutive Expression, the Ubiquitin Promoter:

Ubiquitin is a gene product known to accumulate in many cell types and its promoter has been cloned from several species for use in transgenic plants (*e.g.* sunflower - Binet *et al.*, 1991; maize - Christensen *et al.*, 1989; and *Arabidopsis* - Norris *et al.*, 1993). The maize ubiquitin promoter has been developed in transgenic monocot systems and its sequence and vectors constructed for monocot transformation are disclosed in the patent publication EP 0 342 926 (to Lubrizol). Taylor *et al.* (1993) describe a vector (pAHC25) that comprises the maize ubiquitin promoter and first intron and its high activity in cell suspensions of numerous monocotyledons when introduced via microprojectile

bombardment. The *Arabidopsis* ubiquitin promoter is especially preferred for use with the *NIM1* homologues of the present invention. The ubiquitin promoter is suitable for gene expression in transgenic plants, both monocotyledons and dicotyledons. Suitable vectors are derivatives of pAHC25 or any of the transformation vectors described in this application, modified by the introduction of the appropriate ubiquitin promoter and/or intron sequences.

b. Constitutive Expression, the CaMV 35S Promoter:

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Construction of the plasmid pCGN1761 is described in the published patent application EP 0 392 225 (Example 23). pCGN1761 contains the "double" CaMV 35S promoter and the tml transcriptional terminator with a unique EcoRl site between the promoter and the terminator and has a pUC-type backbone. A derivative of pCGN1761 is constructed which has a modified polylinker which includes Notl and Xhol sites in addition to the existing EcoRI site. This derivative is designated pCGN1761ENX. pCGN1761ENX is useful for the cloning of cDNA sequences or coding sequences (including microbial ORF sequences) within its polylinker for the purpose of their expression under the control of the 35S promoter in transgenic plants. The entire 35S promoter-coding sequence-tml terminator cassette of such a construction can be excised by HindIII, Sphl, Sall, and Xbal sites 5' to the promoter and Xbal, BamHI and BgII sites 3' to the terminator for transfer to transformation vectors such as those described below. Furthermore, the double 35S promoter fragment can be removed by 5' excision with HindIII, SphI, SalI, XbaI, or PstI, and 3' excision with any of the polylinker restriction sites (EcoRI, Notl or Xhol) for replacement with another promoter. If desired, modifications around the cloning sites can be made by the introduction of sequences that may enhance translation. This is particularly useful when overexpression is desired. For example, pCGN1761ENX may be modified by optimization of the translational initiation site as described in Example 37 of U.S. Patent No. 5,639,949.

c. Constitutive Expression, the Actin Promoter:

Several isoforms of actin are known to be expressed in most cell types and consequently the actin promoter is a good choice for a constitutive promoter. In particular, the promoter from the rice *Actl* gene has been cloned and characterized (McElroy *et al.*, 1990). A 1.3kb fragment of the promoter was found to contain all the regulatory elements required for expression in rice protoplasts. Furthermore, numerous expression vectors based on the *Actl* promoter have been constructed specifically for use in monocotyledons (McElroy *et al.*, 1991). These incorporate the *Actl*-intron 1, *Adhl* 5' flanking sequence and

Adhl-intron 1 (from the maize alcohol dehydrogenase gene) and sequence from the CaMV 35S promoter. Vectors showing highest expression were fusions of 35S and Actl intron or the Actl 5' flanking sequence and the Actl intron. Optimization of sequences around the initiating ATG (of the GUS reporter gene) also enhanced expression. The promoter expression cassettes described by McElroy et al. (1991) can be easily modified for gene expression and are particularly suitable for use in monocotyledonous hosts. For example, promoter-containing fragments is removed from the McElroy constructions and used to replace the double 35S promoter in pCGN1761ENX, which is then available for the insertion of specific gene sequences. The fusion genes thus constructed can then be transferred to appropriate transformation vectors. In a separate report, the rice Actl promoter with its first

intron has also been found to direct high expression in cultured barley cells (Chibbar et al.,

d. Inducible Expression, the PR-1 Promoter:

The double 35S promoter in pCGN1761ENX may be replaced with any other promoter of choice that will result in suitably high expression levels. By way of example, one of the chemically regulatable promoters described in U.S. Patent No. 5,614,395 may replace the double 35S promoter. The promoter of choice is preferably excised from its source by restriction enzymes, but can alternatively be PCR-amplified using primers that carry appropriate terminal restriction sites. Should PCR-amplification be undertaken, then the promoter should be re-sequenced to check for amplification errors after the cloning of the amplified promoter in the target vector. The chemically/pathogen regulatable tobacco PR-1a promoter is cleaved from plasmid pCIB1004 (for construction, see example 21 of EP 0 332 104) and transferred to plasmid pCGN1761ENX (Uknes et al., 1992). pCIB1004 is cleaved with Ncol and the resultant 3' overhang of the linearized fragment is rendered blunt by treatment with T4 DNA polymerase. The fragment is then cleaved with HindIII and the resultant PR-1a promoter-containing fragment is gel purified and cloned into pCGN1761ENX from which the double 35S promoter has been removed. This is done by cleavage with Xhol and blunting with T4 polymerase, followed by cleavage with HindIII and isolation of the larger vector-terminator containing fragment into which the pCIB1004 promoter fragment is cloned. This generates a pCGN1761ENX derivative with the PR-1a promoter and the tml terminator and an intervening polylinker with unique EcoRI and Notl sites. The selected coding sequence can be inserted into this vector, and the fusion products (i.e. promoter-gene-terminator) can subsequently be transferred to any selected

1993).

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transformation vector, including those described *infra*. Various chemical regulators may be employed to induce expression of the selected coding sequence in the plants transformed according to the present invention, including the benzothiadiazole, isonicotinic acid, and salicylic acid compounds disclosed in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,523,311 and 5,614,395.

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e. Inducible Expression, an Ethanol-Inducible Promoter:

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used to confer inducible expression of a coding sequence of the present invention. Such a promoter is for example the *alcA* gene promoter from *Aspergillus nidulans* (Caddick *et al.*, 1998). In *A. nidulans*, the *alcA* gene encodes alcohol dehydrogenase I, the expression of which is regulated by the AlcR transcription factors in presence of the chemical inducer. For the purposes of the present invention, the CAT coding sequences in plasmid palcA:CAT comprising a *alcA* gene promoter sequence fused to a minimal 35S promoter (Caddick *et al.*, 1998) are replaced by a coding sequence of the present invention to form an expression cassette having the coding sequence under the control of the *alcA* gene promoter. This is

A promoter inducible by certain alcohols or ketones, such as ethanol, may also be

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f. Inducible Expression, a Glucocorticoid-Inducible Promoter:

carried out using methods well known in the art.

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Induction of expression of a NIM1 homologue of the present invention using systems based on steroid hormones is also contemplated. For example, a glucocorticoid-mediated induction system is used (Aoyama and Chua, 1997) and gene expression is induced by application of a glucocorticoid, for example a synthetic glucocorticoid, preferably dexamethasone, preferably at a concentration ranging from 0.1mM to 1mM, more preferably from 10mM to 100mM. For the purposes of the present invention, the luciferase gene sequences are replaced by a gene sequence encoding a NIM1 homologue to form an expression cassette having the gene sequence encoding a NIM1 homologue under the control of six copies of the GAL4 upstream activating sequences fused to the 35S minimal promoter. This is carried out using methods well known in the art. The trans-acting factor comprises the GAL4 DNA-binding domain (Keegan et al., 1986) fused to the transactivating domain of the herpes viral protein VP16 (Triezenberg et al., 1988) fused to the hormonebinding domain of the rat glucocorticoid receptor (Picard et al., 1988). The expression of the fusion protein is controlled by any promoter suitable for expression in plants known in the art or described here. This expression cassette is also comprised in the plant comprising the gene sequence encoding a NIM1 homologue fused to the 6xGAL4/minimal promoter.

Thus, tissue- or organ-specificity of the fusion protein is achieved leading to inducible tissue- or organ-specificity of the NIM1 homologue.

g. Root Specific Expression:

Another pattern of gene expression is root expression. A suitable root promoter is described by de Framond (1991) and also in the published patent application EP 0 452 269. This promoter is transferred to a suitable vector such as pCGN1761ENX for the insertion of a selected gene and subsequent transfer of the entire promoter-gene-terminator cassette to a transformation vector of interest.

h. Wound-Inducible Promoters:

Wound-inducible promoters may also be suitable for gene expression. Numerous such promoters have been described (e.g. Xu et al., 1993); Logemann et al., 1989; Rohrmeier & Lehle, 1993; Firek et al., 1993; Warner et al., 1993) and all are suitable for use with the instant invention. Logemann et al. describe the 5' upstream sequences of the dicotyledonous potato wunl gene. Xu et al. show that a wound-inducible promoter from the dicotyledon potato (pin2) is active in the monocotyledon rice. Further, Rohrmeier & Lehle describe the cloning of the maize Wipl cDNA which is wound induced and which can be used to isolate the cognate promoter using standard techniques. Similar, Firek et al. and Warner et al. have described a wound-induced gene from the monocotyledon Asparagus officinalis, which is expressed at local wound and pathogen invasion sites. Using cloning techniques well known in the art, these promoters can be transferred to suitable vectors, fused to the genes pertaining to this invention, and used to express these genes at the sites of plant wounding.

i. Pith-Preferred Expression:

Patent Application WO 93/07278 describes the isolation of the maize *trpA* gene, which is preferentially expressed in pith cells. The gene sequence and promoter extending up to -1726 bp from the start of transcription are presented. Using standard molecular biological techniques, this promoter, or parts thereof, can be transferred to a vector such as pCGN1761 where it can replace the 35S promoter and be used to drive the expression of a foreign gene in a pith-preferred manner. In fact, fragments containing the pith-preferred promoter or parts thereof can be transferred to any vector and modified for utility in transgenic plants.

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j. Leaf-Specific Expression:

A maize gene encoding phosphoenol carboxylase (PEPC) has been described by Hudspeth & Grula (1989). Using standard molecular biological techniques the promoter for this gene can be used to drive the expression of any gene in a leaf-specific manner in transgenic plants.

k. Pollen-Specific Expression:

WO 93/07278 describes the isolation of the maize calcium-dependent protein kinase (CDPK) gene which is expressed in pollen cells. The gene sequence and promoter extend up to 1400 bp from the start of transcription. Using standard molecular biological techniques, this promoter or parts thereof, can be transferred to a vector such as pCGN1761 where it can replace the 35S promoter and be used to drive the expression of a NIM1 homologue of the present invention in a pollen-specific manner.

2. Transcriptional Terminators

A variety of transcriptional terminators are available for use in expression cassettes. These are responsible for the termination of transcription beyond the transgene and its correct polyadenylation. Appropriate transcriptional terminators are those that are known to function in plants and include the CaMV 35S terminator, the *tml* terminator, the nopaline synthase terminator and the pea *rbcS* E9 terminator. These can be used in both monocotyledons and dicotyledons. In addition, a gene's native transcription terminator may be used.

3. Sequences for the Enhancement or Regulation of Expression

Numerous sequences have been found to enhance gene expression from within the transcriptional unit and these sequences can be used in conjunction with the genes of this invention to increase their expression in transgenic plants.

Various intron sequences have been shown to enhance expression, particularly in monocotyledonous cells. For example, the introns of the maize *Adhl* gene have been found to significantly enhance the expression of the wild-type gene under its cognate promoter when introduced into maize cells. Intron 1 was found to be particularly effective and enhanced expression in fusion constructs with the chloramphenicol acetyltransferase gene (Callis *et al.*, 1987). In the same experimental system, the intron from the maize *bronze1*

gene had a similar effect in enhancing expression. Intron sequences have been routinely incorporated into plant transformation vectors, typically within the non-translated leader.

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A number of non-translated leader sequences derived from viruses are also known to enhance expression, and these are particularly effective in dicotyledonous cells. Specifically, leader sequences from Tobacco Mosaic Virus (TMV, the "W-sequence"), Maize Chlorotic Mottle Virus (MCMV), and Alfalfa Mosaic Virus (AMV) have been shown to be effective in enhancing expression (e.g. Gallie et al., 1987; Skuzeski et al., 1990).

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4. Targeting of the Gene Product Within the Cell

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Various mechanisms for targeting gene products are known to exist in plants and the sequences controlling the functioning of these mechanisms have been characterized in some detail. For example, the targeting of gene products to the chloroplast is controlled by a signal sequence found at the amino terminal end of various proteins which is cleaved during chloroplast import to yield the mature protein (e.g. Comai et al., 1988). These signal sequences can be fused to heterologous gene products to effect the import of heterologous products into the chloroplast (van den Broeck, et al., 1985). DNA encoding for appropriate signal sequences can be isolated from the 5' end of the cDNAs encoding the RUBISCO protein, the CAB protein, the EPSP synthase enzyme, the GS2 protein and many other proteins which are known to be chloroplast localized. See also, the section entitled

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"Expression With Chloroplast Targeting" in Example 37 of U.S. Patent No. 5,639,949.

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the peroxisome (e.g. Unger et al., 1989). The cDNAs encoding these products can also be manipulated to effect the targeting of heterologous gene products to these organelles. Examples of such sequences are the nuclear-encoded ATPases and specific aspartate amino transferase isoforms for mitochondria. Targeting cellular protein bodies has been

Other gene products are localized to other organelles such as the mitochondrion and

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described by Rogers *et al.* (1985).

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In addition, sequences have been characterized which cause the targeting of gene products to other cell compartments. Amino terminal sequences are responsible for targeting to the ER, the apoplast, and extracellular secretion from aleurone cells (Koehler & Ho, 1990). Additionally, amino terminal sequences in conjunction with carboxy terminal

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sequences are responsible for vacuolar targeting of gene products (Shinshi *et al.*, 1990).

By the fusion of the appropriate targeting sequences described above to transgene sequences of interest it is possible to direct the transgene product to any organelle or cell compartment. For chloroplast targeting, for example, the chloroplast signal sequence from

the RUBISCO gene, the CAB gene, the EPSP synthase gene, or the GS2 gene is fused in frame to the amino terminal ATG of the transgene. The signal sequence selected should include the known cleavage site, and the fusion constructed should take into account any amino acids after the cleavage site which are required for cleavage. In some cases this requirement may be fulfilled by the addition of a small number of amino acids between the cleavage site and the transgene ATG or, alternatively, replacement of some amino acids within the transgene sequence. Fusions constructed for chloroplast import can be tested for efficacy of chloroplast uptake by *in vitro* translation of *in vitro* transcribed constructions followed by *in vitro* chloroplast uptake using techniques described by Bartlett *et al.* (1982) and Wasmann *et al.* (1986). These construction techniques are well known in the art and are equally applicable to mitochondria and peroxisomes.

The above-described mechanisms for cellular targeting can be utilized not only in conjunction with their cognate promoters, but also in conjunction with heterologous promoters so as to effect a specific cell-targeting goal under the transcriptional regulation of a promoter that has an expression pattern different to that of the promoter from which the targeting signal derives.

Example 11: Construction of Plant Transformation Vectors

Numerous transformation vectors available for plant transformation are known to those of ordinary skill in the plant transformation arts, and the genes pertinent to this invention can be used in conjunction with any such vectors. The selection of vector will depend upon the preferred transformation technique and the target species for transformation. For certain target species, different antibiotic or herbicide selection markers may be preferred. Selection markers used routinely in transformation include the *nptll* gene, which confers resistance to kanamycin and related antibiotics (Messing & Vierra, 1982; Bevan *et al.*, 1983), the *bar* gene, which confers resistance to the herbicide phosphinothricin (White *et al.*, 1990; Spencer *et al.*, 1990), the *hph* gene, which confers resistance to the antibiotic hygromycin (Blochinger & Diggelmann), and the *dhfr* gene, which confers resistance to methatrexate (Bourouis *et al.*, 1983), and the EPSPS gene, which confers resistance to glyphosate (U.S. Patent Nos. 4,940,935 and 5,188,642).

1. Vectors Suitable for Agrobacterium Transformation

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Many vectors are available for transformation using *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*.

These typically carry at least one T-DNA border sequence and include vectors such as pBIN19 (Bevan, Nucl. Acids Res. (1984)) and pXYZ. Below, the construction of two typical vectors suitable for *Agrobacterium* transformation is described.

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a. pClB200 and pClB2001:

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The binary vectors pclB200 and pClB2001 are used for the construction of recombinant vectors for use with Agrobacterium and are constructed in the following manner. pTJS75kan is created by Narl digestion of pTJS75 (Schmidhauser & Helinski, 1985) allowing excision of the tetracycline-resistance gene, followed by insertion of an Accl fragment from pUC4K carrying an NPTII (Messing & Vierra, 1982; Bevan et al., 1983; McBride et al., 1990). Xhol linkers are ligated to the EcoRV fragment of PCIB7 which contains the left and right T-DNA borders, a plant selectable nos/npt/l chimeric gene and the pUC polylinker (Rothstein et al., 1987), and the Xhol-digested fragment are cloned into Sall-digested pTJS75kan to create pClB200 (see also EP 0 332 104, example 19). pCIB200 contains the following unique polylinker restriction sites: EcoRI, Sstl. Kpnl. BallI. Xbal, and Sall. pClB2001 is a derivative of pClB200 created by the insertion into the polylinker of additional restriction sites. Unique restriction sites in the polylinker of pClB2001 are EcoRi, Sstl, Kpnl, Bgill, Xbal, Sall, Miul, Bcll, Avril, Apal, Hpal, and Stul. pCIB2001, in addition to containing these unique restriction sites also has plant and bacterial kanamycin selection, left and right T-DNA borders for Agrobacterium-mediated transformation, the RK2-derived trfA function for mobilization between E. coli and other hosts, and the OriT and OriV functions also from RK2. The pCIB2001 polylinker is suitable for the cloning of plant expression cassettes containing their own regulatory signals.

b. pCIB10 and Hygromycin Selection Derivatives thereof:

The binary vector pCIB10 contains a gene encoding kanamycin resistance for selection in plants and T-DNA right and left border sequences and incorporates sequences from the wide host-range plasmid pRK252 allowing it to replicate in both *E. coli* and *Agrobacterium*. Its construction is described by Rothstein *et al.* (1987). Various derivatives of pCIB10 are constructed which incorporate the gene for hygromycin B phosphotransferase described by Gritz *et al.*, 1983). These derivatives enable selection of transgenic plant cells on hygromycin only (pCIB743), or hygromycin and kanamycin (pCIB715, pCIB717).

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2. Vectors Suitable for non-Agrobacterium Transformation

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requirement for T-DNA sequences in the chosen transformation vector and consequently vectors lacking these sequences can be utilized in addition to vectors such as the ones described above which contain T-DNA sequences. Transformation techniques that do not rely on *Agrobacterium* include transformation via particle bombardment, protoplast uptake (e.g. PEG and electroporation) and microinjection. The choice of vector depends largely on the preferred selection for the species being transformed. Below, the construction of typical vectors suitable for non-*Agrobacterium* transformation is described.

pClB246 comprises the CaMV 35S promoter in operational fusion to the E. coli GUS gene

application WO 93/07278. The 35S promoter of this vector contains two ATG sequences 5' of the start site. These sites are mutated using standard PCR techniques in such a way as to remove the ATGs and generate the restriction sites *Sspl* and *Pvull*. The new restriction

sites are 96 and 37 bp away from the unique *Sall* site and 101 and 42 bp away from the actual start site. The resultant derivative of pClB246 is designated pClB3025. The GUS gene is then excised from pClB3025 by digestion with *Sall* and *Sacl*, the termini rendered blunt and religated to generate plasmid pClB3060. The plasmid pJIT82 is obtained from the

John Innes Centre, Norwich and the a 400 bp *Smal* fragment containing the *bar* gene from *Streptomyces viridochromogenes* is excised and inserted into the *Hpal* site of pClB3060 (Thompson *et al.*, 1987). This generated pClB3064, which comprises the *bar* gene under the control of the CaMV 35S promoter and terminator for herbicide selection, a gene for

ampicillin resistance (for selection in *E. coli*) and a polylinker with the unique sites *Sphl, Pstl, HindIII,* and *BamHI.* This vector is suitable for the cloning of plant expression

and the CaMV 35S transcriptional terminator and is described in the PCT published

Transformation without the use of Agrobacterium tumefaciens circumvents the

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pCIB3064 is a pUC-derived vector suitable for direct gene transfer techniques in combination with selection by the herbicide basta (or phosphinothricin). The plasmid

a. pCIB3064:

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b. pSOG19 and pSOG35:

cassettes containing their own regulatory signals.

pSOG35 is a transformation vector that utilizes the *E. coli* gene dihydrofolate reductase (DFR) as a selectable marker conferring resistance to methotrexate. PCR is

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used to amplify the 35S promoter (-800 bp), intron 6 from the maize Adh1 gene (-550 bp) and 18 bp of the GUS untranslated leader sequence from pSOG10. A 250-bp fragment encoding the *E. coli* dihydrofolate reductase type II gene is also amplified by PCR and these two PCR fragments are assembled with a *SacI-PstI* fragment from pB1221 (Clontech) which comprises the pUC19 vector backbone and the nopaline synthase terminator. Assembly of these fragments generates pSOG19 which contains the 35S promoter in fusion with the intron 6 sequence, the GUS leader, the DHFR gene and the nopaline synthase terminator. Replacement of the GUS leader in pSOG19 with the leader sequence from Maize Chlorotic Mottle Virus (MCMV) generates the vector pSOG35. pSOG19 and pSOG35 carry the pUC gene for ampicillin resistance and have *HindIII*, *SphI*, *PstI* and *EcoRI* sites available for the cloning of foreign substances.

Example 12: Transformation

Once the gene sequence of interest has been cloned into an expression system, it is transformed into a plant cell. Methods for transformation and regeneration of plants are well known in the art. For example, Ti plasmid vectors have been utilized for the delivery of foreign DNA, as well as direct DNA uptake, liposomes, electroporation, micro-injection, and microprojectiles. In addition, bacteria from the genus *Agrobacterium* can be utilized to transform plant cells. Below are descriptions of representative techniques for transforming both dicotyledonous and monocotyledonous plants.

1. Transformation of Dicotyledons

Transformation techniques for dicotyledons are well known in the art and include *Agrobacterium*-based techniques and techniques that do not require *Agrobacterium*. Non-*Agrobacterium* techniques involve the uptake of exogenous genetic material directly by protoplasts or cells. This can be accomplished by PEG or electroporation mediated uptake, particle bombardment-mediated delivery, or microinjection. Examples of these techniques are described by Paszkowski *et al.*, 1984; Potrykus *et al.*, 1985; Reich *et al.*, 1986; and Klein *et al.*, 1987. In each case the transformed cells are regenerated to whole plants using standard techniques known in the art.

Agrobacterium-mediated transformation is a preferred technique for transformation of dicotyledons because of its high efficiency of transformation and its broad utility with many different species. Agrobacterium transformation typically involves the transfer of the binary

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vector carrying the foreign DNA of interest (e.g. pCIB200 or pCIB2001) to an appropriate Agrobacterium strain which may depend of the complement of vir genes carried by the host Agrobacterium strain either on a co-resident Ti plasmid or chromosomally (e.g. strain CIB542 for pCIB200 and pCIB2001 (Uknes et al., 1993). The transfer of the recombinant binary vector to Agrobacterium is accomplished by a triparental mating procedure using E. coli carrying the recombinant binary vector, a helper E. coli strain which carries a plasmid such as pRK2013 and which is able to mobilize the recombinant binary vector to the target Agrobacterium strain. Alternatively, the recombinant binary vector can be transferred to Agrobacterium by DNA transformation (Höfgen & Willmitzer, 1988).

Transformation of the target plant species by recombinant *Agrobacterium* usually involves co-cultivation of the *Agrobacterium* with explants from the plant and follows protocols well known in the art. Transformed tissue is regenerated on selectable medium carrying the antibiotic or herbicide resistance marker present between the binary plasmid T-DNA borders.

Another approach to transforming plant cells with a gene involves propelling inert or biologically active particles at plant tissues and cells. This technique is disclosed in U.S. Patent Nos. 4,945,050, 5,036,006, and 5,100,792. Generally, this procedure involves propelling inert or biologically active particles at the cells under conditions effective to penetrate the outer surface of the cell and afford incorporation within the interior thereof. When inert particles are utilized, the vector can be introduced into the cell by coating the particles with the vector containing the desired gene. Alternatively, the target cell can be surrounded by the vector so that the vector is carried into the cell by the wake of the particle. Biologically active particles (e.g., dried yeast cells, dried bacterium or a bacteriophage, each containing DNA sought to be introduced) can also be propelled into plant cell tissue.

2. Transformation of Monocotyledons

Transformation of most monocotyledon species has now also become routine. Preferred techniques include direct gene transfer into protoplasts using PEG or electroporation techniques, and particle bombardment into callus tissue. Transformations can be undertaken with a single DNA species or multiple DNA species (*i.e.* cotransformation) and both these techniques are suitable for use with this invention. Cotransformation may have the advantage of avoiding complete vector construction and of generating transgenic plants with unlinked loci for the gene of interest and the selectable

marker, enabling the removal of the selectable marker in subsequent generations, should this be regarded desirable. However, a disadvantage of the use of co-transformation is the less than 100% frequency with which separate DNA species are integrated into the genome (Schocher *et al.*, 1986).

Patent Applications EP 0 292 435, EP 0 392 225, and WO 93/07278 describe techniques for the preparation of callus and protoplasts from an elite inbred line of maize, transformation of protoplasts using PEG or electroporation, and the regeneration of maize plants from transformed protoplasts. Gordon-Kamm *et al.* (1990) and Fromm *et al.* (1990) have published techniques for transformation of A188-derived maize line using particle bombardment. Furthermore, WO 93/07278 and Koziel *et al.* (1993) describe techniques for the transformation of elite inbred lines of maize by particle bombardment. This technique utilizes immature maize embryos of 1.5-2.5 mm length excised from a maize ear 14-15 days after pollination and a PDS-1000He Biolistics device for bombardment.

Transformation of rice can also be undertaken by direct gene transfer techniques utilizing protoplasts or particle bombardment. Protoplast-mediated transformation has been described for *Japonica*-types and *Indica*-types (Zhang *et al.*, 1988; Shimamoto *et al.*, 1989; Datta *et al.*, 1990). Both types are also routinely transformable using particle bombardment (Christou *et al.*, 1991). Furthermore, WO 93/21335 describes techniques for the transformation of rice via electroporation.

Patent Application EP 0 332 581 describes techniques for the generation, transformation and regeneration of Pooideae protoplasts. These techniques allow the transformation of *Dactylis* and wheat. Furthermore, wheat transformation has been described by Vasil *et al.* (1992) using particle bombardment into cells of type C long-term regenerable callus, and also by Vasil *et al.* (1993) and Weeks *et al.* (1993) using particle bombardment of immature embryos and immature embryo-derived callus. A preferred technique for wheat transformation, however, involves the transformation of wheat by particle bombardment of immature embryos and includes either a high sucrose or a high maltose step prior to gene delivery. Prior to bombardment, any number of embryos (0.75-1 mm in length) are plated onto MS medium with 3% sucrose (Murashiga & Skoog, 1962) and 3 mg/l 2,4-D for induction of somatic embryos, which is allowed to proceed in the dark. On the chosen day of bombardment, embryos are removed from the induction medium and placed onto the osmoticum (*i.e.* induction medium with sucrose or maltose added at the desired concentration, typically 15%). The embryos are allowed to plasmolyze for 2-3 h and are then bombarded. Twenty embryos per target plate is typical, although not critical. An

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appropriate gene-carrying plasmid (such as pClB3064 or pSG35) is precipitated onto micrometer size gold particles using standard procedures. Each plate of embryos is shot with the DuPont Biolistics® helium device using a burst pressure of ~1000 psi using a standard 80 mesh screen. After bombardment, the embryos are placed back into the dark to recover for about 24 h (still on osmoticum). After 24 hrs, the embryos are removed from the osmoticum and placed back onto induction medium where they stay for about a month before regeneration. Approximately one month later the embryo explants with developing embryogenic callus are transferred to regeneration medium (MS + 1 mg/liter NAA, 5 mg/liter GA), further containing the appropriate selection agent (10 mg/l basta in the case of pClB3064 and 2 mg/l methotrexate in the case of pSOG35). After approximately one month, developed shoots are transferred to larger sterile containers known as "GA7s" which contain half-strength MS, 2% sucrose, and the same concentration of selection agent.

Tranformation of monocotyledons using *Agrobacterium* has also been described. *See,* WO 94/00977 and U.S. Patent No. 5,591,616.

III. Breeding and Seed Production

Example 13: Breeding

The plants obtained via tranformation with a gene of the present invention can be any of a wide variety of plant species, including those of monocots and dicots; however, the plants used in the method of the invention are preferably selected from the list of agronomically important target crops set forth *supra*. The expression of a gene of the present invention in combination with other characteristics important for production and quality can be incorporated into plant lines through breeding. Breeding approaches and techniques are known in the art. See, for example, Welsh J. R. (1981); Wood D. R. (Ed.) (1983); Mayo O. (1987); Singh, D.P. (1986); and Wricke and Weber (1986).

The genetic properties engineered into the transgenic seeds and plants described above are passed on by sexual reproduction or vegetative growth and can thus be maintained and propagated in progeny plants. Generally said maintenance and propagation make use of known agricultural methods developed to fit specific purposes such as tilling, sowing or harvesting. Specialized processes such as hydroponics or greenhouse technologies can also be applied. As the growing crop is vulnerable to attack and damages caused by insects or infections as well as to competition by weed plants, measures are

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undertaken to control weeds, plant diseases, insects, nematodes, and other adverse conditions to improve yield. These include mechanical measures such a tillage of the soil or removal of weeds and infected plants, as well as the application of agrochemicals such as herbicides, fungicides, gametocides, nematicides, growth regulants, ripening agents and insecticides.

Use of the advantageous genetic properties of the transgenic plants and seeds according to the invention can further be made in plant breeding, which aims at the development of plants with improved properties such as tolerance of pests, herbicides, or stress, improved nutritional value, increased yield, or improved structure causing less loss from lodging or shattering. The various breeding steps are characterized by well-defined human intervention such as selecting the lines to be crossed, directing pollination of the parental lines, or selecting appropriate progeny plants. Depending on the desired properties, different breeding measures are taken. The relevant techniques are well known in the art and include but are not limited to hybridization, inbreeding, backcross breeding, multiline breeding, variety blend, interspecific hybridization, aneuploid techniques, etc. Hybridization techniques also include the sterilization of plants to yield male or female sterile plants by mechanical, chemical, or biochemical means. Cross pollination of a male sterile plant with pollen of a different line assures that the genome of the male sterile but female fertile plant will uniformly obtain properties of both parental lines. Thus, the transgenic seeds and plants according to the invention can be used for the breeding of improved plant lines, that for example, increase the effectiveness of conventional methods such as herbicide or pestidice treatment or allow one to dispense with said methods due to their modified genetic properties. Alternatively new crops with improved stress tolerance can be obtained, which, due to their optimized genetic "equipment", yield harvested product of better quality than products that were not able to tolerate comparable adverse developmental conditions.

Example 14: Seed Production

In seeds production, germination quality and uniformity of seeds are essential product characteristics, whereas germination quality and uniformity of seeds harvested and sold by the farmer is not important. As it is difficult to keep a crop free from other crop and weed seeds, to control seedborne diseases, and to produce seed with good germination, fairly extensive and well-defined seed production practices have been developed by seed

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producers, who are experienced in the art of growing, conditioning and marketing of pure seed. Thus, it is common practice for the farmer to buy certified seed meeting specific quality standards instead of using seed harvested from his own crop. Propagation material to be used as seeds is customarily treated with a protectant coating comprising herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, bactericides, nematicides, molluscicides, or mixtures thereof. Customarily used protectant coatings comprise compounds such as captan, carboxin, thiram (TMTD®), methalaxyl (Apron®), and pirimiphos-methyl (Actellic®). If desired, these compounds are formulated together with further carriers, surfactants or application-promoting adjuvants customarily employed in the art of formulation to provide protection against damage caused by bacterial, fungal or animal pests. The protectant coatings may be applied by impregnating propagation material with a liquid formulation or by coating with a combined wet or dry formulation. Other methods of application are also possible such as treatment directed at the buds or the fruit.

It is a further aspect of the present invention to provide new agricultural methods, such as the methods examplified above, which are characterized by the use of transgenic plants, transgenic plant material, or transgenic seed according to the present invention.

The seeds may be provided in a bag, container or vessel comprised of a suitable packaging material, the bag or container capable of being closed to contain seeds. The bag, container or vessel may be designed for either short term or long term storage, or both, of the seed. Examples of a suitable packaging material include paper, such as kraft paper, rigid or pliable plastic or other polymeric material, glass or metal. Desirably the bag, container, or vessel is comprised of a plurality of layers of packaging materials, of the same or differing type. In one embodiment the bag, container or vessel is provided so as to exclude or limit water and moisture from contacting the seed. In one example, the bag, container or vessel is sealed, for example heat sealed, to prevent water or moisture from entering. In another embodiment water absorbent materials are placed between or adjacent to packaging material layers. In yet another embodiment the bag, container or vessel, or packaging material of which it is comprised is treated to limit, suppress or prevent disease, contamination or other adverse affects of storage or transport of the seed. An example of such treatment is sterilization, for example by chemical means or by exposure to radiation. Comprised by the present invention is a commercial bag comprising seed of a transgenic plant comprising a gene of the present invention that is expressed in said transformed plant at higher levels than in a wild type plant, together with a suitable

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carrier, together with label instructions for the use thereof for conferring broad spectrum disease resistance to plants.

IV. Disease Resistance Evaluation

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Disease resistance evaluation is performed by methods known in the art. *See*, Uknes *et al.* (1993); Görlach *et al.* (1996); Alexander *et al.* (1993). For example, several representative disease resistance assays are described below.

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Example 15: Phytophthora parasitica (Black Shank) Resistance Assay

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Assays for resistance to *Phytophthora parasitica*, the causative organism of black shank, are performed on six-week-old plants grown as described in Alexander *et al.* (1993). Plants are watered, allowed to drain well, and then inoculated by applying 10 ml of a sporangium suspension (300 sporangia/ml) to the soil. Inoculated plants are kept in a greenhouse maintained at 23-25°C day temperature, and 20-22°C night temperature. The wilt index used for the assay is as follows: 0=no symptoms; 1=no symptoms; 1=some sign of wilting, with reduced turgidity; 2=clear wilting symptoms, but no rotting or stunting; 3=clear wilting symptoms with stunting, but no apparent stem rot; 4=severe wilting, with visible stem rot and some damage to root system; 5=as for 4, but plants near death or dead, and with severe reduction of root system. All assays are scored blind on plants arrayed in a random design.

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Example 16: Pseudomonas syringae Resistance Assay

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Pseudomonas syringae pv. tabaci strain #551 is injected into the two lower leaves of several 6-7-week-old plants at a concentration of 10⁶ or 3 x 10⁶ per ml in H₂0. Six individual plants are evaluated at each time point. Pseudomonas tabaci infected plants are rated on a 5 point disease severity scale, 5=100% dead tissue, 0=no symptoms. A T-test (LSD) is conducted on the evaluations for each day and the groupings are indicated after the Mean disease rating value. Values followed by the same letter on that day of evaluation are not statistically significantly different.

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Example 17: Cercospora nicotianae Resistance Assay

A spore suspension of *Cercospora nicotianae* (ATCC #18366) (100,000-150,000 spores per ml) is sprayed to imminent run-off onto the surface of the leaves. The plants are maintained in 100% humidity for five days. Thereafter the plants are misted with water 5-10 times per day. Six individual plants are evaluated at each time point. *Cercospora nicotianae* is rated on a % leaf area showing disease symptoms basis. A T-test (LSD) is conducted on the evaluations for each day and the groupings are indicated after the Mean disease rating value. Values followed by the same letter on that day of evaluation are not statistically significantly different.

Example 18: Peronospora parasitica Resistance Assay

Assays for resistance to *Peronospora parasitica* are performed on plants as described in Uknes *et al*, (1993). Plants are inoculated with a compatible isolate of *P. parasitica* by spraying with a conidial suspension (approximately 5 x 10⁴ spores per milliliter). Inoculated plants are incubated under humid conditions at 17° C in a growth chamber with a 14-hr day/10-hr night cycle. Plants are examined at 3-14 days, preferably 7-12 days, after inoculation for the presence of conidiophores. In addition, several plants from each treatment are randomly selected and stained with lactophenol-trypan blue (Keogh *et al.*, 1980) for microscopic examination.

The above disclosed embodiments are illustrative. This disclosure of the invention will place one skilled in the art in possession of many variations of the invention. All such obvious and foreseeable variations are intended to be encompassed by the claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEQUENCES IN THE SEQUENCE LISTING

SEQ ID NO:1 - Full length cDNA sequence of a NIM1 homologue from Nicotiana tabacum.

SEQ ID NO:2 - Protein sequence of the *Nicotiana tabacum* NIM1 homologue encoded by SEQ ID NO:1.

SEQ ID NO:3 - Full length cDNA sequence of a NIM1 homologue from Lycopersicon esculentum.

5	SEQ ID NO:4 - Protein sequence of the Lycopersicon esculentum NIM1 homologue
	encoded by SEQ ID NO:3.
	SEQ ID NO:5 - Partial cDNA sequence of a NIM1 homologue from Brassica napus.
	SEQ ID NO:6 - Partial protein sequence of the Brassica napus NIM1 homologue encoded
10	by SEQ ID NO:5.
	SEQ ID NO:7 - Full length cDNA sequence of a NIM1 homologue (AtNMLc5) from
	Arabidopsis thaliana.
15	SEQ ID NO:8 - Full length protein sequence of the Arabidopsis thaliana NIM1 homologue
15	AtNMLc5 encoded by SEQ ID NO:7.
	SEQ ID NOs:9-14 - Oligonucleotide primers used in Examples 1-4.
	SEQ ID NO:15 - Genomic DNA sequence of a NIM1 homologue (AtNMLc2) from
20	Arabidopsis thaliana.
	SEQ ID NO:16 - Protein sequence of the Arabidopsis thaliana NIM1 homologue AtNMLc2
	encoded by SEQ ID NO:15.
	SEQ ID NO:17 - Genomic DNA sequence of a NIM1 homologue (AtNMLc4-1) from
25	Arabidopsis thaliana.
	SEQ ID NO:18 - Protein sequence of the Arabidopsis thaliana NIM1 homologue AtNMLc4-1
	encoded by SEQ ID NO:17.
	SEQ ID NO:19 - Genomic DNA sequence of a NIM1 homologue (AtNMLc4-2) from
30	Arabidopsis thaliana.
	SEQ ID NO:20 - Protein sequence of the Arabidopsis thaliana NIM1 homologue AtNMLc4-2
	encoded by SEQ ID NO:19.
35	SEQ ID NO:21 - PCR primer NIM 1A.
	SEQ ID NO:22 - PCR primer NIM 1B.
	SEQ ID NO:23 - PCR primer NIM 1C.
	SEQ ID NO:24 - PCR primer NIM 1D.
40	SEQ ID NO:25 - PCR primer NIM 2A.
	SEQ ID NO:26 - PCR primer NIM 2B.
	SEQ ID NO:27 - PCR primer NIM 2C.
	SEQ ID NO:28 - PCR primer NIM 2D.
45	SEQ ID NO:29 - 659 bp NIM-like DNA fragment amplified from Nicotiana tabacum (Tobacco
	A), which is a consensus of 36 sequences and has 67% sequence identity
	to the Arabidopsis thaliana NIM1 gene sequence.

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5	SEQ ID NO:30 - Protein sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO:29.
	SEQ ID NO:31 - 498 bp NIM-like DNA fragment amplified from Nicotiana tabacum (Tobacco
	B), which is a consensus of 2 sequences and has 62% sequence identity to
	the Arabidopsis thaliana NIM1 gene sequence.
10	SEQ ID NO:32 - Protein sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO:31.
	SEQ ID NO:33 - 498 bp NIM-like DNA fragment amplified from Nicotiana tabacum (Tobacco
	C), which is a consensus of 3 sequences and has 63% sequence identity to
	the Arabidopsis thaliana NIM1 gene sequence.
15	SEQ ID NO:34 - Protein sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO:33.
	SEQ ID NO:35 - 399 bp NIM-like DNA fragment amplified from Nicotiana tabacum (Tobacco
	D), which has 59% sequence identity to the Arabidopsis thaliana NIM1 gene
20	sequence.
	SEQ ID NO:36 - Protein sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO:35.
	SEQ ID NO:37 - 498 bp NIM-like DNA fragment amplified from Lycopersicon esculentum
	(Tomato A), which is a consensus of 8 sequences and has 67% sequence
25	identity to the Arabidopsis thaliana NIM1 gene sequence.
	SEQ ID NO:38 - Protein sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO:37.
	SEQ ID NO:39 - 498 bp NIM-like DNA fragment amplified from Beta vulgaris (Sugarbeet),
	which is a consensus of 24 sequences and has 66% sequence identity to
30	the Arabidopsis thaliana NIM1 gene sequence.
	SEQ ID NO:40 - Protein sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO:39.
	SEQ ID NO:41 - 498 bp NIM-like DNA fragment amplified from Helianthus annuus
35	(Sunflower A), which is a consensus of 9 sequences and has 61% sequence
	identity to the Arabidopsis thaliana NIM1 gene sequence.
	SEQ ID NO:42 - Protein sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO:41.
	SEQ ID NO:43 - 498 bp NIM-like DNA fragment amplified from Helianthus annuus
40	(Sunflower B), which is a consensus of 10 sequences and has 59%
	sequence identity to the Arabidopsis thaliana NIM1 gene sequence.
	SEQ ID NO:44 - Protein sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO:43.
	SEQ ID NO:45 - 653 bp NIM-like DNA fragment amplified from Solanum tuberosum (Potato
45	A), which is a consensus of 15 sequences and has 68% sequence identity
	to the Arabidopsis thaliana NIM1 gene sequence.
	SEQ ID NO:46 - Protein sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO:45.
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5	SEQ ID NO:47 - 498 bp NIM-like DNA fragment amplified from Solanum tuberosum (Potato
	B), which is a consensus of 3 sequences and has 61% sequence identity to
	the Arabidopsis thaliana NIM1 gene sequence.
	SEQ ID NO:48 - Protein sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO:47.
10	SEQ ID NO:49 - 477 bp NIM-like DNA fragment amplified from Solanum tuberosum (Potato
	C), which is a consensus of 2 sequences and has 62% sequence identity to
	the Arabidopsis thaliana NIM1 gene sequence.
45	SEQ ID NO:50 - Protein sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO:49.
15	SEQ ID NO:51 - 501 bp NIM-like DNA fragment amplified from Brassica napus (Canola A),
	which is a consensus of 5 sequences and has 59% sequence identity to the
	Arabidopsis thaliana NIM1 gene sequence.
20	SEQ ID NO:52 - Protein sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO:51.
	SEQ ID NO:53 - 501 bp NIM-like DNA fragment amplified from Brassica napus (Canola B),
	which is a consensus of 5 sequences and has 58% sequence identity to the
	Arabidopsis thaliana NIM1 gene sequence.
25	SEQ ID NO:54 - Protein sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO:53.
	SEQ ID NO:55 - 498 bp NIM-like DNA fragment amplified from Brassica napus (Canola C),
	which has 56% sequence identity to the Arabidopsis thaliana NIM1 gene
	sequence.
30	SEQ ID NO:56 - Protein sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO:55.
	SEQ ID NO:57 - 498 bp NIM-like DNA fragment amplified from Brassica napus (Canola D),
	which has 73% sequence identity to the Arabidopsis thaliana NIM1 gene
25	sequence.
35	SEQ ID NO:58 - Protein sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO:57.
	SEQ ID NO:59 - PCR primer NIM 3A.
	SEQ ID NO:60 - PCR primer NIM 3B.
40	SEQ ID NO:61 - 148 bp NIM-like DNA fragment amplified from Lycopersicon esculentum
	(Tomato B), which is a consensus of 3 sequences and has 72% sequence
	identity to the Arabidopsis thaliana NIM1 gene sequence.
	SEQ ID NO:62 - Protein sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO:61.
45	SEQ ID NO:63 - Full length cDNA sequence of a NIM1 homologue from Beta vulgaris
	(Sugarbeet), which corresponds to the PCR fragment of SEQ ID NO:39.
	SEQ ID NO:64 - Protein sequence of the sugarbeet NIM1 homologue encoded by SEQ ID
	NO:62.
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SEQ ID NO:65 - Full length cDNA sequence of a NIM1 homologue from Helianthus annuus 5 (Sunflower B), which corresponds to the PCR fragment of SEQ ID NO:43. SEQ ID NO:66 - Protein sequence of the Helianthus annuus NIM1 homologue encoded by SEQ ID NO:65. 10 SEQ ID NO:67 - cDNA sequence corresponding to the Arabidopsis thaliana NIM-like genomic sequence AtNMLc2 (SEQ ID NO:15). SEQ ID NO:68 - Protein sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO:67. SEQ ID NO:69 - cDNA sequence corresponding to the Arabidopsis thaliana NIM-like 15 genomic sequence AtNMLc4-1 (SEQ ID NO:17). SEQ ID NO:70 - Protein sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO:69. SEQ ID NO:71 - cDNA sequence corresponding to the Arabidopsis thaliana NIM-like genomic sequence AtNMLc4-2 (SEQ ID NO:19). 20 SEQ ID NO:72 - Protein sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO:71. SEQ ID NO:73 - Full length cDNA sequence of a NIM1 homologue from Nicotiana tabacum (Tobacco B), which corresponds to the PCR fragment of SEQ ID NO:31. SEQ ID NO:74 - Protein sequence of the Nicotiana tabacum NIM1 homologue encoded by 25 SEQ ID NO:73. **DEPOSITS** 30 The following material has been deposited with the Agricultural Research Service, Patent Culture Collection (NRRL), 1815 North University Street, Peoria, Illinois 61604, USA, under the terms of the Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of 35 Microorganisms for the Purposes of Patent Procedure. All restrictions on the availability of the deposited material will be irrevocably removed upon the granting of a patent. Clone Accession Number Date of Deposit 40 pNOV1203 NRRL B-30049 August 17, 1998 pNOV1204 NRRL B-30050 August 17, 1998 pNOV1206

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May 25, 1999

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5 The references cited herein are indicative of the current state of the art. Each of the following is incorporated by reference into the instant disclosure. U.S. Patent No. 4,940,935 10 U.S. Patent No. 4,945,050 U.S. Patent No. 5,036,006 U.S. Patent No. 5,100,792 U.S. Patent No. 5,188,642 15 U.S. Patent No. 5,523,311 U.S. Patent No. 5,591,616 U.S. Patent No. 5,614,395 U.S. Patent No. 5,639,949 20 U.S. Patent No. 5,792,904 EP 0 292 435 EP 0 332 104 EP 0 332 581 25 EP 0 342 926 EP 0 392 225 EP 0 452 269 30 International PCT Application WO 93/07278 International PCT Application WO 93/21335 International PCT Application WO 94/00977 International PCT Application WO 94/13822 35 International PCT Application WO 94/16077 International PCT Application WO 97/49822 International PCT Application WO 98/06748 International PCT Application WO 98/26082 40 International PCT Application WO 98/29537 Alexander et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 90: 7327-7331 (1993) Aoyama and Chua, The Plant Journal 11: 605-612 (1997) Ausubel, F.M. et al., Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, pub. by Greene Publishing 45 Assoc. and Wiley-Interscience (1987) Bartlett et al., In: Edelmann et al. (Eds.) Methods in Chloroplast Molecular Biology, Elsevier

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INDICATIONS RELATING TO DEPOSITED MICROORGANISM OR OTHER BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL

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Claims

What is Claimed is:

- An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising:
- (a) a nucleotide sequence that encodes SEQ ID NO:2, 4, 6, 8, 16, 18, 20, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, or 74;
- (b) SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 5, 7, 15, 17, 19, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, or 73;
- (c) a nucleotide sequence that comprises an at least 20 consecutive base pair portion identical in sequence to an at least 20 consecutive base pair portion of SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 5, 7, 15, 17, 19, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, or 73;
- (d) a nucleotide sequence that can be amplified from a *Lycopersicon esculentum* DNA library using the polymerase chain reaction with the pair of primers set forth as SEQ ID NO:9 and 10, SEQ ID NO:21 and 24, SEQ ID NO:22 and 24, SEQ ID NO:25 and 28, SEQ ID NO:26 and 28, or SEQ ID NO:59 and 60;
- (e) a nucleotide sequence that can be amplified from a *Beta vulgaris* DNA library using the polymerase chain reaction with the pair of primers set forth as SEQ ID NO:22 and 24 or SEQ ID NO:26 and 28;
- (f) a nucleotide sequence that can be amplified from a *Helianthus annuus* DNA library using the polymerase chain reaction with the pair of primers set forth as SEQ ID NO:26 and 28;
- (g) a nucleotide sequence that can be amplified from a *Solanum tuberosum* DNA library using the polymerase chain reaction with the pair of primers set forth as SEQ ID NO:21 and 24, SEQ ID NO:25 and 28, or SEQ ID NO:26 and 28;
- (h) a nucleotide sequence that can be amplified from a *Brassica napus* DNA library using the polymerase chain reaction with the pair of primers set forth as SEQ ID NO:9 and 10 or SEQ ID NO:26 and 28;
- (i) a nucleotide sequence that can be amplified from an *Arabidopsis thaliana* DNA library using the polymerase chain reaction with the pair of primers set forth as SEQ ID NO:13 and 14, SEQ ID NO:21 and 24, or SEQ ID NO:22 and 24;
- (j) a nucleotide sequence that can be amplified from an *Nicotiana tabacum* DNA library using the polymerase chain reaction with the pair of primers set forth as SEQ ID

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NO:9 and 10, SEQ ID NO:11 and 12, SEQ ID NO:21 and 24, SEQ ID NO:22 and 24, SEQ ID NO:25 and 28, or SEQ ID NO:26 and 28; or

- (k) a nucleotide sequence that can be amplified from an plant DNA library using the polymerase chain reaction with a pair of primers comprising the first 20 nucleotides and the reverse complement of the last 20 nucleotides of the coding sequence (CDS) of SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 5, 7, 15, 17, 19, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, or 73.
- 2. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes SEQ ID NO:2, 4, 6, 8, 16, 18, 20, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, or 74.
- 3. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, comprising SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 5, 7, 15, 17, 19, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, or 73.
- 4. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, comprising a nucleotide sequence that comprises an at least 20 consecutive base pair portion identical in sequence to an at least 20 consecutive base pair portion of SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 5, 7, 15, 17, 19, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, or 73.
- 5. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, comprising a nucleotide sequence that can be amplified from a *Lycopersicon esculentum* DNA library using the polymerase chain reaction with the pair of primers set forth as SEQ ID NO:9 and 10, SEQ ID NO:21 and 24, SEQ ID NO:22 and 24, SEQ ID NO:25 and 28, SEQ ID NO:26 and 28, or SEQ ID NO:59 and 60.
- 6. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, comprising a nucleotide sequence that can be amplified from a *Beta vulgaris* DNA library using the polymerase chain reaction with the pair of primers set forth as SEQ ID NO:22 and 24 or SEQ ID NO:26 and 28.

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An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, comprising a nucleotide sequence that can be amplified from a Helianthus annuus DNA library using the polymerase chain reaction with the pair of primers set forth as SEQ ID NO:26 and 28.

8. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, comprising a nucleotide sequence that can be amplified from a Solanum tuberosum DNA library using the polymerase chain reaction with the pair of primers set forth as SEQ ID NO:21 and 24, SEQ ID NO:21 and 23, SEQ ID NO:22 and 24, SEQ ID NO:25 and 28, or SEQ ID NO:26 and 28.

- 9. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, comprising a nucleotide sequence that can be amplified from a Brassica napus DNA library using the polymerase chain reaction with the pair of primers set forth as SEQ ID NO:9 and 10 or SEQ ID NO:26 and 28.
- 10. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, comprising a nucleotide sequence that can be amplified from an Arabidopsis thaliana DNA library using the polymerase chain reaction with the pair of primers set forth as SEQ ID NO:13 and 14, SEQ ID NO:21 and 24, or SEQ ID NO:22 and 24.
- 11. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, comprising a nucleotide sequence that can be amplified from an Nicotiana tabacum DNA library using the polymerase chain reaction with the pair of primers set forth as SEQ ID NO:9 and 10, SEQ ID NO:11 and 12, SEQ ID NO:21 and 24, SEQ ID NO:22 and 24, SEQ ID NO:25 and 28, or SEQ ID NO:26 and 28.
- 12. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, comprising a nucleotide sequence that can be amplified from a plant DNA library using the polymerase chain reaction with a pair of primers corresponding to the first 20 nucleotides and the reverse complement of the last 20 nucleotides of the coding sequence (CDS) of SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 5, 7, 15, 17, 19, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, or 73.
- 13. A chimeric gene comprising a promoter active in plants operatively linked to a nucleic acid molecule according to any one of the preceding claims.

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14. A recombinant vector comprising the chimeric gene of claim 13.

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15. A host cell comprising the chimeric gene of claim 13.

16. A plant comprising the chimeric gene of claim 13.

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17. The plant of claim 16, which is selected from the following: rice, wheat, barley, rye, corn, potato, canola, sunflower, carrot, sweet potato, sugarbeet, bean, pea, chicory, lettuce, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, turnip, radish, spinach, asparagus, onion, garlic, eggplant, pepper, celery, squash, pumpkin, cucumber, apple, pear, quince, melon, plum, cherry, peach, nectarine, apricot, strawberry, grape, raspberry, blackberry, pineapple, avocado, papaya, mango, banana, soybean, tobacco, tomato, sorghum and sugarcane.

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Seed from the plant of claim 16.

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19. A method of increasing SAR gene expression in a plant, comprising expressing the chimeric gene of claim 13 in said plant.

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20. A method of enhancing disease resistance in a plant, comprising expressing the chimeric gene of claim 13 in said plant.

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21. A PCR primer selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:9-14, 21-28, 59, and 60.

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22. A method for isolating a *NIM1* homologue involved in the signal transduction cascade leading to systemic acquired resistance in plants comprising amplifying a DNA molecule from a plant DNA library using the polymerase chain reaction with a pair of primers corresponding to the first 20 nucleotides and the reverse complement of the last 20 nucleotides of the coding sequence (CDS) of SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 5, 7, 15, 17, 19, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, or 73 or with the pair of primers set forth as SEQ ID NO:9 and 10, SEQ ID NO:11 and 12, SEQ ID NO:13 and 14, SEQ ID NO:21 and 24, SEQ ID NO:25 and 28, SEQ ID NO:26 and 28, or SEQ ID NO:59 and 60.

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23. The method of claim 22, wherein said plant DNA library is a *Nicotiana tabacum* (tobacco), *Lycopersicon esculentum* (tomato), *Brassica napus* (oilseed rape), *Arabidopsis thaliana*, *Beta vulgaris* (sugarbeet), *Helianthus annuus* (sunflower), or *Solanum tuberosum* (potato) DNA library.

- 65 -

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gag cca tcg atc a Glu Pro Ser Ile 1 340	tt ata tcg ctt le Ile Ser Leu	atc gat aaa ggc Ile Asp Lys Gly 345	gcc aat gca Ala Asn Ala 350	tct 1056 Ser
gag ttt aca tct (Glu Phe Thr Ser i 355		Ala Val Asn Ile		
aca aat cca aag g Thr Asn Pro Lys 2 370	at tat cat acc sp Tyr His Thr 375	aaa aca gca aaa Lys Thr Ala Lys 380	Gly Arg Glu	tct 1152 Ser
agt aag gcc agg o Ser Lys Ala Arg 1 385	ta tgc atc gat eu Cys Ile Asp 390	ata ttg gaa aga Ile Leu Glu Arg 395	gaa atc agg Glu Ile Arg	aag 1200 Lys 400
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cag ttg ttc ttt of Gln Leu Phe Phe 1	ca acg gaa gct ro Thr Glu Ala 440	Lys Val Ala Met	gac att ggt Asp Ile Gly 445	aac 1344 Asn
gta gaa ggt aca a Val Glu Gly Thr 9 450	gt gag ttc aca er Glu Phe Thr 455	ggg ttg tca cct Gly Leu Ser Pro 460	Pro Ser Ser	ggg 1392 Gly
tta acc gga aac (Leu Thr Gly Asn 1 465				

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gag Glu	aag Lys 530	gga Gly	tct Ser	aca Thr	cat His	gaa Glu 535	aga Arg	aga Arg	ttg Leu	aaa Lys	aga Arg 540	atg Met	aga Arg	tat Tyr	aga Arg	1632
gag Glu 545	ctt Leu	aag Lys	gat Asp	gat Asp	gtc Val 550	caa Gln	aag Lys	gca Ala	tat Tyr	agc Ser 555	aaa Lys	gac Asp	aaa Lys	gag Glu	tct Ser 560	1680
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Ala	Ser	Asn 35	Pro	Glu	Val	Val	Ser 40	Leu	Thr	Lys	Leu	Ser 45	Ser	Asn	Leu	
Glu	Gln 50	Leu	Leu	Ser	Asn	Ser 55	Asp	Cys	Asp	Tyr	Ser 60	Asp	Ala	Glu	Ile	
Ile 65	Val	Asp	Gly	Val	Pro 70	Val	Gly	Val	His	Arg 75	Cys	Ile	Leu	Ala	Ala 80	
Arg	Ser	Lys	Phe	Phe 85	Gln	Asp	Leu	Phe	Lys 90	Lys	Glu	Lys	Lys	Ile 95	Ser	
Lys	Thr	Glu	Lys 100	Pro	Lys	Tyr	Gln	Leu 105	Arg	Glu	Met	Leu	Pro 110	Tyr	Gly	

Ala Val Ala His Glu Ala Phe Leu Tyr Phe Leu Ser Tyr Ile Tyr Thr $115 \ \ 120 \ \ 125$

Gly Arg Leu Lys Pro Phe Pro Leu Glu Val Ser Thr Cys Val Asp Pro

135 140 Val Cys Ser His Asp Cys Cys Arg Pro Ala Ile Asp Phe Val Val Gln 155 Leu Met Tyr Ala Ser Ser Val Leu Gln Val Pro Glu Leu Val Ser Ser Phe Gln Arg Arg Leu Cys Asn Phe Val Glu Lys Thr Leu Val Glu Asn Val Leu Pro Ile Leu Met Val Ala Phe Asn Cys Lys Leu Thr Gln Leu Leu Asp Gln Cys Ile Glu Arg Val Ala Arg Ser Asp Leu Tyr Arg Phe Cys Ile Glu Lys Glu Val Pro Pro Glu Val Ala Glu Lys Ile Lys Gln Leu Arg Leu Ile Ser Pro Gln Asp Glu Glu Thr Ser Pro Lys Ile Ser Glu Lys Leu Leu Glu Arg Ile Gly Lys Ile Leu Lys Ala Leu Asp Ser Asp Asp Val Glu Leu Val Lys Leu Leu Leu Thr Glu Ser Asp Ile Thr Leu Asp Gln Ala Asn Gly Leu His Tyr Ser Val Val Tyr Ser Asp Pro Lys Val Val Ala Glu Ile Leu Ala Leu Asp Met Gly Asp Val Asn Tyr Arg Asn Ser Arg Gly Tyr Thr Val Leu His Phe Ala Ala Met Arg Arg Glu Pro Ser Ile Ile Ile Ser Leu Ile Asp Lys Gly Ala Asn Ala Ser 345 Glu Phe Thr Ser Asp Gly Arg Ser Ala Val Asn Ile Leu Arg Arg Leu Thr Asn Pro Lys Asp Tyr His Thr Lys Thr Ala Lys Gly Arg Glu Ser Ser Lys Ala Arg Leu Cys Ile Asp Ile Leu Glu Arg Glu Ile Arg Lys Asn Pro Met Val Leu Asp Thr Pro Met Cys Ser Ile Ser Met Pro Glu Asp Leu Gln Met Arg Leu Leu Tyr Leu Glu Lys Arg Val Gly Leu Ala 425 Gln Leu Phe Phe Pro Thr Glu Ala Lys Val Ala Met Asp Ile Gly Asn 440 Val Glu Gly Thr Ser Glu Phe Thr Gly Leu Ser Pro Pro Ser Ser Gly 455

Leu 465	Thr	Gly	Asn	Leu	Ser 470	Gln	Val	Asp	Leu	Asn 475	Glu	Thr	Pro	His	Met 480	
Gln	Thr	Gln	Arg	Leu 485	Leu	Thr	Arg	Met	Val 490	Ala	Leu	Met	Lys	Thr 495	Val	
Glu	Thr	Gly	Arg 500	Arg	Phe	Phe	Pro	Tyr 505	Gly	Ser	Glu	Val	Leu 510	Asp	Lys	
Tyr	Met	Ala 515	Glu	Tyr	Ile	Asp	Asp 520	Asp	Ile	Leu	Asp	Asp 525	Phe	His	Phe	
Glu	Lys 530	Gly	Ser	Thr	His	Glu 535	Arg	Arg	Leu	Lys	Arg 540	Met	Arg	Tyr	Arg	
Glu 5 4 5	Leu	Lys	Asp	Asp	Val 550	Gln	Lys	Ala	Tyr	Ser 555	Lys	Asp	Lys	Glu	Ser 560	
Lys	Ile	Ala	Arg	Ser 565	Cys	Leu	Ser	Ala	Ser 570	Ser	Ser	Pro	Ser	Ser 5 7 5	Ser	
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gaa ggt cgt tta gtc cac gct cac cgt tgt atc ctc gcc gca cgg agt Glu Gly Arg Leu Val His Ala His Arg Cys Ile Leu Ala Ala Arg Ser	144

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Gly	Val	Glu 355	Gln	Leu	Ala	Leu	Leu 360	Thr	Gln	Lys	Gln	Leu 365	Ala	Ser	Met	
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Glu	Gly	Arg 435	Leu	Val	His	Ala	His 440	Arg	Суз	Ile	Leu	Ala 445	Ala	Arg	Ser	
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tct Ser	cac His	tta Leu	tca Ser 20	aac Asn	cct Pro	tct Ser	cct Pro	gtt Val 25	gtt Val	act Thr	act Thr	tat Tyr	cac His 30	tca Ser	gct Ala	96
gct Ala	aat Asn	ctt Leu 35	gaa Glu	gag Glu	ctc Leu	agc Ser	tct Ser 40	aac Asn	ttg Leu	gag Glu	cag Gln	ctt Leu 45	ctc Leu	act Thr	aat Asn	144
cca Pro	gat Asp 50	tgc Cys	gat Asp	tac Tyr	act Thr	gac Asp 55	gca Ala	gag Glu	atc Ile	atc Ile	att Ile 60	gaa Glu	gaa Glu	gaa Glu	gct Ala	192
aac Asn 65	cct Pro	gtg Val	agt Ser	gtt Val	cat His 70	aga Arg	tgt Cys	gtt Val	tta Leu	gct Ala 75	gct Ala	agg Arg	agc Ser	aag Lys	ttt Phe 80	240

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				ttc Phe												384
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Pro Asp Cys Asp Tyr Thr Asp Ala Glu Ile Ile Ile Glu Glu Glu Ala 50 55 60

Asn Pro Val Ser Val His Arg Cys Val Leu Ala Ala Arg Ser Lys Phe 65 70 75 80

Phe Leu Asp Leu Phe Lys Lys Asp Lys Asp Ser Ser Glu Lys Lys Pro 85 90 95

Lys Tyr Gln Met Lys Asp Leu Leu Pro Tyr Gly Asn Val Gly Arg Glu 100 105 110

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Ser Cys Lys Pro Ala Ile Asp Phe Ala Val Glu Leu Met Tyr Ala Ser 145 150 155 160

Phe Val Phe Gln Ile Pro Asp Leu Val Ser Ser Phe Gln Arg Lys Leu 165 170 175

Arg Asn Tyr Val Glu Lys Ser Leu Val Glu Asn Val Leu Pro Ile Leu 180 185 190

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Glu Arg Val Ala Arg Ser Asp Leu Asp Arg Phe Cys Ile Glu Lys Glu 210 215 220

Leu Pro Leu Glu Val Leu Glu Lys Ile Lys Gln Leu Arg Val Lys Ser

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Leu Asp Tyr Pro Thr Glu Phe Leu Thr Pro Pro Glu Val Ser Ala Leu
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ttc tac agc gat gct aag cta gtt ctc gcc ggc ggc cgg gaa gtt tct
Phe Tyr Ser Asp Ala Lys Leu Val Leu Ala Gly Gly Arg Glu Val Ser
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85 90 95

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gcg gtt ttg gcg tat gtt tac agc ggc aga gtg agg tcc ccg ccg aag 432 Ala Val Leu Ala Tyr Val Tyr Ser Gly Arg Val Arg Ser Pro Pro Lys 130 140

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gta gac aaa gtt g Val Asp Lys Val Va 195				
act cta tgt ggt at Thr Leu Cys Gly Ti 210				
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Lys Leu Leu Ser Asn Cys Leu Glu Ser Val Phe Asp Ser Pro Glu Thr
50 55 60
Phe Tyr Ser Asp Ala Lys Leu Val Leu Ala Gly Gly Arg Glu Val Ser 65 70 75 80
Phe His Arg Cys Ile Leu Ser Ala Arg Ile Pro Val Phe Lys Ser Ala 85 90 95
Leu Ala Thr Val Lys Glu Gln Lys Ser Ser Thr Thr Val Lys Leu Gln 100 \phantom{000} 105 \phantom{000} 110
Leu Lys Glu Ile Ala Arg Asp Tyr Glu Val Gly Phe Asp Ser Val Val 115 120 125
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Gln Ile Gln Glu Leu Val Thr Leu Tyr Glu Arg Gln Phe Leu Glu Ile
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Val Asp Lys Val Val Val Glu Asp IIe Leu Val IIe Phe Lys Leu Asp 195 200 205
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Pro Gln His Ile Phe Lys Gln Ile Ile Asp Ile Arg Glu Ala Leu Cys 245 250 255
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His Thr Asn Leu Asp Glu Ala Tyr Ala Leu His Phe Ala Ile Ala His 290 295 300
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Gln Lys Leu Glu Tyr Leu Ser Pro Ile Glu Ala Ser Leu Ser Leu Pro
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					gac Asp											96
					GJA āāā											144
					agg Arg											192
cag Gln 65	atg Met	ttg Leu	cta Leu	aga Arg	gag Glu 70	gjā āāā	cat His	act Thr	act Thr	cta Leu 75	gat Asp	gat Asp	gca Ala	tat Tyr	gct Ala 80	240
ctc Leu	cac His	tat Tyr	gct Ala	gta Val 85	gca Ala	tat Tyr	tgc Cys	gat Asp	gca Ala 90	aag Lys	act Thr	aca Thr	gca Ala	gaa Glu 95	ctt Leu	288
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Val Lys Arg Ile His Arg Ala Leu Asp Ser Asp Asp Val Glu Leu Leu

Gln Met Leu Leu Arg Glu Gly His Thr Thr Leu Asp Asp Ala Tyr Ala

Leu His Tyr Ala Val Ala Tyr Cys Asp Ala Lys Thr Thr Ala Glu Leu

Leu Asp Leu Ala Leu Ala Asp Val Asn His Gln Asn Ser Arg Gly Tyr 105

Thr Val Leu His Val Ala Ala Met Arg Lys Glu Pro Lys Ile Ile Val 115 120 125

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Arg Lys Ala Leu Gln Ile Ala Lys Arg Leu Thr Arg Leu Val Asp Phe 155

Ser Lys Ser Pro Glu Glu Gly Lys Ser Ala Ser Lys Asp Arg Leu Cys

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			ccc Pro												145
			cta Leu												193
			aag Lys												241
			tca Ser												289
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				act Thr												337
				aac Asn												385
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241

Asp Val Asn His Gln Asn Pro Arg Gly His Thr Val Leu His Val Ala

gcc atg agg aaa gaa cct aaa att ata gtg tcc ctt tta acc aaa gga

50

Ala 65	Met	Arg	Lys	Glu	Pro 70	Lys	Ile	Ile	Val	Ser 75	Leu	Leu	Thr	Lys	80 80	
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gct Ala	aag Lys	agg Arg	ctc Leu 100	act Thr	agg Arg	ctt Leu	gta Val	gat Asp 105	ttt Phe	acc Thr	aag Lys	tct Ser	aca Thr 110	gag Glu	gaa Glu	337
gga Gly	aaa Lys	tct Ser 115	gct Ala	cca Pro	aag Lys	gat Asp	cgg Arg 120	tta Leu	tgc Cys	att Ile	gag Glu	att Ile 125	ctg Leu	gag Glu	caa Gln	385
gca Ala	gaa Glu 130	aga Arg	aga Arg	gat Asp	cca Pro	cta Leu 135	cta Leu	gga Gly	gaa Glu	gct Ala	tca Ser 140	tta Leu	tct Ser	ctt Leu	gct Ala	433
atg Met 145	gca Ala	ggc Gly	gat Asp	gat Asp	ttg Leu 150	cgt Arg	atg Met	aag Lys	ctg Leu	tta Leu 155	tac Tyr	ctt Leu	gaa Glu	aat Asn	aga Arg 160	481
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Gly	His	Thr	Thr 20	Leu	Asp	Asp	Ala	Tyr 25	Ala	Leu	His	Tyr	Ala 30	Val	Ala	
Tyr	Cys	Asp 35	Ala	Lys	Thr	Thr	Ala 40	Glu	Leu	Leu	Asp	Leu 45	Ser	Leu	Ala	
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Gly	Lys	Ser 115	Ala	Pro	Lys	Asp	Arg 120	Leu	Cys	Ile	Glu	Ile 125	Leu	Glu	Gln	
Ala	Glu 130	Arg	Arg	Asp	Pro	Leu 135	Leu	Gly	Glu	Ala	Ser 140	Leu	Ser	Leu	Ala	

Met Ala Gly Asp Asp Leu Arg Met Lys Leu Leu Tyr Leu Glu Asn Arg 145 150 155 160

Val Gly Leu Ala Lys 165

gtt ggc ctt gct caa ct

Val Gly Leu Ala Gln

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155

498

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165

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<211> 165

<212> PRT

<213> Beta vulgaris

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His Cys Asp Ala Lys Thr Thr Glu Leu Leu Glu Leu Gly Leu Ala 35 40 45

Asp Val Asn Leu Arg Asn Leu Arg Gly His Thr Val Leu His Val Ala 50 60

Ala Met Arg Lys Glu Pro Lys Ile Ile Val Ser Leu Leu Thr Lys Gly 65 70 75 80

Ala His Pro Ser Asp Ile Thr Ser Asp Asp Lys Lys Ala Leu Gln Ile 85 90 95

Ala Lys Arg Leu Thr Lys Ala Val Asp Phe Tyr Lys Thr Thr Glu Gln 100 105 110

Gly Lys Asp Ala Pro Lys Asp Arg Leu Cys Ile Glu Ile Leu Glu Gln 115 120 125

Ala Glu Arg Arg Glu Pro Leu Leu Gly Glu Gly Ser Val Ser Leu Ala 130 135 140

Lys Ala Gly Asp Asp Leu Arg Met Lys Leu Leu Tyr Leu Glu Asn Arg 145 150 155 160

Val Gly Leu Ala Gln

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<211> 498

<212> DNA

<213> Helianthus annuus

<220>

<221> CDS

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<400> 41

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ggt cat act toa tta gac ggt tot tgc gct ott cat tac gct gtt gcg 97 Gly His Thr Ser Leu Asp Gly Ser Cys Ala Leu His Tyr Ala Val Ala

20 25 30 tac gca gat gct aaa acg aca acc gaa tta ctg gat tta gca ctt gct Tyr Ala Asp Ala Lys Thr Thr Glu Leu Leu Asp Leu Ala Leu Ala gac gta aat cat aaa aac teg agg ggt ttt acc gta ett cat gtt gee 193 Asp Val Asn His Lys Asn Ser Arg Gly Phe Thr Val Leu His Val Ala 55 gct atg aga aaa gag ccg agt att atc gtt tcg ctt ctt acg aaa ggg Ala Met Arg Lys Glu Pro Ser Ile Ile Val Ser Leu Leu Thr Lys Gly 241 gee ega eee teg gat ete aee eet gat ggg aga aaa gea eta eag att Ala Arg Pro Ser Asp Leu Thr Pro Asp Gly Arg Lys Ala Leu Gln Ile tog aag agg ttg acc aga gcg gtt gac tat tac aag tca aac gag gat Ser Lys Arg Leu Thr Arg Ala Val Asp Tyr Tyr Lys Ser Asn Glu Asp 100 gat aaa gag tca acg aaa ggt cgt ttg tgt att gag ata ttg gaa caa 385 Asp Lys Glu Ser Thr Lys Gly Arg Leu Cys Ile Glu Ile Leu Glu Gln gcc gaa aga aga aat cca ttg tta ggt gaa gct tcg gct tct ctt gca 433 Ala Glu Arg Arg Asn Pro Leu Leu Gly Glu Ala Ser Ala Ser Leu Ala 135 atg gcc gga gat gat ttg cgt gga aag ttg ttg tac ctt gaa aat cga Met Ala Gly Asp Asp Leu Arg Gly Lys Leu Leu Tyr Leu Glu Asn Arg 155 gtt ggc ctg gct caa ct 498 . Val Gly Leu Ala Gln <210> 42 <211> 165 <212> PRT <213> Helianthus annuus <400> 42 Ala Leu Asp Ser Asp Asp Val Glu Xaa Val Thr Met Leu Leu Arg Glu Gly His Thr Ser Leu Asp Gly Ser Cys Ala Leu His Tyr Ala Val Ala Tyr Ala Asp Ala Lys Thr Thr Glu Leu Leu Asp Leu Ala Leu Ala Asp Val Asn His Lys Asn Ser Arg Gly Phe Thr Val Leu His Val Ala Ala Met Arg Lys Glu Pro Ser Ile Ile Val Ser Leu Leu Thr Lys Gly

Ala Arg Pro Ser Asp Leu Thr Pro Asp Gly Arg Lys Ala Leu Gln Ile

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Asp	Lys	Glu 115	Ser	Thr	Lys	Gly	Arg 120	Leu	Cys	Ile	Glu	Ile 125	Leu	Glu	Gln	
Ala	Glu 130	Arg	Arg	Asn	Pro	Leu 135	Leu	Gly	Glu	Ala	Ser 140	Ala	Ser	Leu	Ala	
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Val	Gly	Leu	Ala	Gln 165												
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tcc Ser	aaa Lys	atc Ile	acg Thr 20	tta Leu	gat Asp	gaa Glu	gcc Ala	tgc Cys 25	gct Ala	ctt Leu	cat His	tat Tyr	gcg Ala 30	gtc Val	atg Met	97
tat Tyr	tgt Cys	aat Asn 35	caa Gln	gaa Glu	gtt Val	gct Ala	aag Lys 40	gag Glu	att Ile	ctt Leu	aac Asn	tta Leu 45	aac Asn	cgt Arg	gcg Ala	145
gat Asp	gtt Val	aat Asn	ctt	aga	aac	tca	cda									
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gcc Ala 65	atg	cgt	aaa	Arg gaa	Asn	Ser 55 tca	Arg	Asp att Ile	Tyr gtt	Thr	Val 60 att	Leu cta	His	Val aaa	Ala	193 241
Ala 65 gcg	atg Met tgt	cgt Arg gca	aaa Lys tcg	Arg gaa Glu gat	Asn cca Pro 70 act	Ser 55 tca Ser act	Arg ctt Leu ttt	Asp	Tyr gtt Val gga	tcg Ser 75	Val 60 att Ile agt	Leu cta Leu gcg	His agc Ser	Val aaa Lys agt	ggc Gly 80	
Ala 65 gcg Ala tgc	atg Met tgt Cys	cgt Arg gca Ala	aaa Lys tcg Ser	gaa Glu gat Asp 85	Asn cca Pro 70 act Thr	Ser 55 tca Ser act Thr	Arg ctt Leu ttt Phe	Asp att Ile gat	gtt Val gga Gly 90 tat	Thr tcg Ser 75 caa Gln tat	Val 60 att Ile agt Ser	Leu cta Leu gcg Ala	His agc Ser gtt Val	Val aaa Lys agt Ser 95	ggc Gly 80 att Ile	241

gaa ata aag agg aat ccg atg ata ggc gat gtt tcc gtg tgt tct tca Glu Ile Lys Arg Asn Pro Met Ile Gly Asp Val Ser Val Cys Ser Ser 130 135 140	433
gca gtg gct gat gat ttg cat atg aat tta ctc tac ttt gaa aat cga Ala Val Ala Asp Asp Leu His Met Asn Leu Leu Tyr Phe Glu Asn Arg 145 150 155 160	481
gtt ggc ctt gct caa ct Val Gly Leu Ala Gln 165	498
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Tyr Cys Asn Gln Glu Val Ala Lys Glu Ile Leu Asn Leu Asn Arg Ala 35 40 45	
Asp Val Asn Leu Arg Asn Ser Arg Asp Tyr Thr Val Leu His Val Ala 50 55 60	
Ala Met Arg Lys Glu Pro Ser Leu Ile Val Ser Ile Leu Ser Lys Gly 65 70 75 80	
Ala Cys Ala Ser Asp Thr Thr Phe Asp Gly Gln Ser Ala Val Ser Ile 85 90 95	
Cys Arg Arg Thr Arg Pro Lys Asp Tyr Tyr Val Lys Thr Glu His	
Gly Gln Glu Thr Asn Lys Asp Arg Ile Cys Ile Asp Val Leu Glu Arg 115 120 125	
Glu Ile Lys Arg Asn Pro Met Ile Gly Asp Val Ser Val Cys Ser Ser 130 135 140	
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Gly Leu Gln Gly Pro Glu Ser Asn Gly Phe Pro Asp Lys His Val Lys
Arg Ile His Arg Ala Leu Asp Ser Asp Asp Val Glu Leu Leu Arg Met
Leu Leu Lys Glu Gly His Thr Thr Leu Asp Asp Ala Tyr Ala Leu His
Tyr Ala Val Ala Tyr Cys Asp Ala Lys Thr Thr Ala Glu Leu Leu Asp
Leu Ser Leu Ala Asp Val Asn His Gln Asn Pro Arg Gly Tyr Thr Val
Leu His Val Ala Ala Met Arg Lys Glu Pro Lys Ile Ile Val Ser Leu 115 120 125
Leu Thr Lys Gly Ala Arg Pro Ser Asp Leu Thr Ser Asp Gly Lys Lys
Ala Leu Gln Ile Ala Lys Arg Leu Thr Arg Leu Val Asp Phe Thr Lys
Ser Thr Glu Glu Gly Lys Ser Ala Pro Lys Asp Arg Leu Cys Ile Glu 165 175 175
Ile Leu Glu Gln Ala Glu Arg Arg Asp Pro Leu Leu Gly Glu Ala Ser
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			ccc Pro													145
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gcc Ala 65	atg Met	cgt Arg	aag Lys	gaa Glu	ccc Pro 70	tca Ser	atc Ile	att Ile	gta Val	tca Ser 75	ctt Leu	ttg Leu	act Thr	aag Lys	gga Gly 80	241
gct Ala	cat His	gca Ala	tca Ser	gaa Glu 85	att Ile	aca Thr	ttg Leu	gat Asp	90 ggg	cag Gln	agt Ser	gct Ala	gtt Val	ggc Gly 95	atc Ile	289
tgt Cys	agg Arg	agg Arg	ctg Leu 100	agt Ser	agg Arg	cct Pro	aag Lys	gag Glu 105	tac Tyr	cat His	gca Ala	aaa Lys	aca Thr 110	gaa Glu	caa Gln	337
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Tyr		Asp	Pro	Lys	Val		Thr		Val	Leu	Gly	Leu 45	Gly	Val	Ala	

Asn	Val 50	Asn	Leu	Arg	Asn	Thr 55	Arg	Gly	Tyr	Thr	Val 60	Leu	His	Ile	Ala	
Ala 65	Met	Arg	Lys	Glu	Pro 70	Ser	Ile	Ile	Val	Ser 75	Leu	Leu	Thr	Lys	Gly 80	
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tct Ser	gac Asp	ata Ile	agt Ser 20	tta Leu	gat Asp	gga Gly	gcc Ala	tac Tyr 25	gct Ala	ctt Leu	cat His	tac Tyr	gct Ala 30	gtt Val	gca Ala	97
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gcc Ala 65	atg Met	cgt Arg	aag Lys	gaa Glu	ccc Pro 70	tca Ser	atc Ile	att Ile	gta Val	tca Ser 75	ctt Leu	ttg Leu	act Thr	aag Lys	gga Gly 80	241
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				aac Asn												433
				tac Tyr										ct		47 7
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Ser	Asp	Ile	Ser 20	Leu	Asp	Gly	Ala	Tyr 25	Ala	Leu	His	Tyr	Ala 30	Val	Ala	
Tyr	Cys	Asp 35	Pro	Lys	Val	Val	Thr 40	Glu	Val	Leu	Gly	Leu 45	Gly	Val	Ala	
Asn	Val 50		Leu	Arg	Asn	Thr 55	Arg	Gly	Tyr	Thr	Val 60	Leu	His	Ile	Ala	
Ala 65		Arg	Lys	Glu	Pro 70	Ser	Ile	Ile	Val	Ser 75	Leu	Leu	Thr	Lys	Gly 80	
Ala	His	Ala	Ser	Glu 85	Ile	Thr	Leu	Asp	Gly 90	Gln	Ser	Ala	Va1	Ser 95	Ile	
Cys	Arg	Arg	Leu 100	Thr	Arg	Pro	Lys	Glu 105	Tyr	His	Ala	Lys	Thr 110	Glu	Gln	
Gly	Gln	Glu 115		Asn	Lys	Asp	Arg 120	Va1	Cys	Ile	Asp	Val 125	Leu	Glu	Arg	
Glu	Met 130		Arg	Asn	Pro	Met 135	Thr	Gly	Asp	Ala	Leu 140	Phe	Ser	Ser	Pro	
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Ala 65	Met	Arg	Lys	Glu	Pro 70	Ser	Ile	Ile	Ile	Ser 75	Leu	Leu	Lys	Arg	Gly 80	
Ala	Asn	Ala	Ser	Gly 85	Phe	Thr	Cys	Asp	Gly 90	Arg	Ser	Ala	Val	Asn 95	Ile	
Cys	Arg	Arg	Leu 100	Thr	Thr	Pro	Lys	Asp 105	Tyr	His	Thr	Lys	Thr 110	Ala	Ala	
Lys	Gly	Arg 115	Glu	Ala	Ser	Lys	Ala 120	Arg	Leu	Cys	Ile	Asp 125	Leu	Leu	Glu	
Arg	Glu 130	Val	Arg	Arg	Asn	Pro 135	Met	Val	Val	Asp	Ser 140	Pro	Met	Сув	Ser	
Leu 1 4 5	Ser	Met	Pro	Glu	Asp 150	Leu	Gln	Met	Arg	Leu 155	Leu	Tyr	Leu	Glu	Asn 160	
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tat agt gat ccc aaa gtt gtt gca gag ata ctt gcc ctt ggt tta ggt Tyr Ser Asp Pro Lys Val Val Ala Glu Ile Leu Ala Leu Gly Leu Gly 35 40 45	145
gat gtc aat cac aga aac tca cgt ggc tac tcg gtt ctt cat ttc gct Asp Val Asn His Arg Asn Ser Arg Gly Tyr Ser Val Leu His Phe Ala 50 55 60	193
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gag gtt agg agg aac cct atg ctt gct gat acg cca atg tgt tca ctt Glu Val Arg Arg Asn Pro Met Leu Ala Asp Thr Pro Met Cys Ser Leu 130 140	433
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145

cat tee gat gtg aag aeg gee tet gat ete ata gae ett gag ett geg

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atc c Ile L 205																1396
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aaa g Lys G	gag Blu	ctt Leu	cca Pro 240	ttt Phe	gaa Glu	gtc Val	acc Thr	caa Gln 245	atg Met	atc Ile	aaa Lys	tcc Ser	att Ile 250	gat Asp	aac Asn	1492
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act t Thr P 365	tt he	gat Asp	gga Gly	caa Gln	agt Ser 370	gcg Ala	gtt Val	agt Ser	att Ile	tgc Cys 375	agg Arg	aga Arg	cga Arg	aca Thr	agg Arg 380	1876
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	act Thr															2164
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	gaa Glu															2404
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Cys Asn Tyr Ser Asp Ala Glu Val Val Glu Gly Ile Ser Val Gly 65 70 75 80
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Gln Ser Ala Val Ser Ile Cys Arg Arg Arg Thr Arg Pro Lys Asp Tyr
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Tyr Val Lys Thr Glu His Gly Gln Glu Thr Asn Lys Asp Arg Ile Cys 395 400
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445

420

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Pro His Cys Ser Glu Val Leu Asp Lys Phe Met Glu Asp Asp Leu Gln 515 520 525
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Asn Leu Leu Ile Asn Gly Gln Ala Phe Ser Asp Val Thr Phe Ser Val
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Glu Gly Arg Leu Val His Ala His Arg Cys Ile Leu Ala Ala Arg Arg
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Thr Gly Ile Asp Pro Thr Gln His Gly Ser Val Pro Ala Ser Pro Thr
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Cys Ser His Ser Met Pro Glu Asp Leu Gln Met Arg Leu Leu Tyr Leu
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cgg g																291
ttc a Phe L																339
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gac t Asp S																435
tcc c Ser P																483
gtg g Val A																531
tct t Ser P 1																579
ttc t Phe L 190																627
ttc a Phe L																675
aga t Arg C																723
gag a Glu L																771

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Lys Arg Cys Ser Leu Asp His Phe Met Asp Thr Glu Asp Leu Asn His
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Leu Ala Ser Val Glu Glu Asp Thr Pro Glu Lys Arg Leu Gln Lys Lys
caa agg tac atg gaa cta caa gag act ctg atg aag acc ttt agt gag
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Gln Arg Tyr Met Glu Leu Gln Glu Thr Leu Met Lys Thr Phe Ser Glu
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                                  550
gac aag gag gaa tgt gga aag tct tcc aca ccg aaa cca acc tct gcg
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Asp Lys Glu Glu Cys Gly Lys Ser Ser Thr Pro Lys Pro Thr Ser Ala
gtg agg tot aat aga aaa oto tot cao ogg ogo ota aaa gtg gao aaa
Val Arg Ser Asn Arg Lys Leu Ser His Arg Arg Leu Lys Val Asp Lys
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Leu Lys Leu Leu Ser Asn Cys Leu Glu Ser Val Phe Asp Ser Pro Glu 50 55 60
Thr Phe Tyr Ser Asp Ala Lys Leu Val Leu Ala Gly Gly Arg Glu Val 65 70 75 80
Ser Phe His Arg Cys Ile Leu Ser Ala Arg Ile Pro Val Phe Lys Ser
85 90 95
Ala Leu Ala Thr Val Lys Glu Gln Lys Ser Ser Thr Thr Val Lys Leu 100 105 110
Gln Leu Lys Glu Ile Ala Arg Asp Tyr Glu Val Gly Phe Asp Ser Val
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Lys Gly Ala Ser Ala Cys Val Asp Asp Asp Cys Cys His Val Ala Cys
145 150 150 155
Arg Ser Lys Val Asp Phe Met Val Glu Val Leu Tyr Leu Ser Phe Val
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Phe Gln Ile Gln Glu Leu Val Thr Leu Tyr Glu Arg Gln Phe Leu Glu
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Ile Val Asp Lys Val Val Val Glu Asp Ile Leu Val Ile Phe Lys Leu 195 200 205
Asp Thr Leu Cys Gly Thr Thr Tyr Lys Lys Leu Leu Asp Arg Cys Ile
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Ala Leu Asp Ser Asp Asp Val Glu Leu Val Lys Met Leu Leu Glu 275 280 285
Gly His Thr Asn Leu Asp Glu Ala Tyr Ala Leu His Phe Ala Ile Ala 290 295 300
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Glu Gln Lys Leu Glu Tyr Leu Ser Pro Ile Glu Ala Ser Leu Ser Leu
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Leu Glu Pro Asp His His Ile Gly Glu Lys Arg Thr Ser Leu Asp Leu 465 470 480
Asn Met Ala Pro Phe Gin Ile His Glu Lys His Leu Ser Arg Leu Arg
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Ala Leu Cys Lys Thr Val Glu Leu Gly Lys Arg Tyr Phe Lys Arg Cys 500 505 510
Ser Leu Asp His Phe Met Asp Thr Glu Asp Leu Asn His Leu Ala Ser 515 520 525
Val Glu Glu Asp Thr Pro Glu Lys Arg Leu Gln Lys Lys Gln Arg Tyr
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	att Ile															1188
	cca Pro															1236
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	aag Lys															1476
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Va1

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Lys Leu Ser Asn Asn Leu Glu Gln Leu Leu Ser Asp Ser Ser Ser Asp 50 55 60

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Lys Glu Lys Gly Ser Cys Gly Lys Glu Gly Lys Pro Arg Tyr Ser Met 100 105 110

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120 Phe Leu Ser Tyr Leu Tyr Ser Gly Lys Leu Lys His Phe Pro Pro Glu 135 140 Val Ser Thr Cys Met Asp Thr Ile Cys Ala His Asp Ser Cys Arg Pro Ala Ile Asn Phe Ser Val Glu Leu Met Tyr Ala Ser Ser Met Phe Gln Val Pro Glu Leu Val Ser Leu Phe Leu Arg Arg Leu Ile Asn Phe Val His Cys Gln Leu Ser Glu Leu Leu Thr His Ser Val Asp Arg Val Ala 215 Val Ala Glu Asn Ile Lys Leu Leu Trp Pro Lys Cys Gln Val Asp Glu Ser Lys Val Leu Pro Val Asp Pro Leu His Glu Lys Arg Lys Asn Arg Ile Tyr Lys Ala Leu Asp Ser Asp Asp Val Glu Leu Val Lys Leu Leu 280 Leu Ser Glu Ser Asn Ile Ser Leu Asp Glu Ala Tyr Ala Leu His Tyr Ala Val Ala Tyr Cys Asp Pro Lys Val Val Thr Glu Val Leu Gly Leu Gly Val Ala Asp Val Asn Leu Arg Asn Thr Arg Gly Tyr Thr Val Leu His Ile Ala Ser Met Arg Lys Glu Pro Ala Val Ile Val Ser Leu Leu Thr Lys Gly Ala Arg Ala Ser Glu Thr Thr Leu Asp Gly Gln Ser Ala 360

Val